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November 20, 2011 • No 132

Bomb threat man in hoax at theatre as he didn't like star Shaky

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR security alert was sparked at the Assembly Hall Theatre during a show by Eighties rocker Shakin' Stevens after police received a bomb threat.

Shaky was performing a greatest hits show as part of a tour celebrating the 30th anniversary of his first UK hit, when unemployed Paul Starbuck, 47, of no fixed abode, called police and said he had planted an explosive device.

As the show broke for an interval police were forced to clear the theatre as they searched for the bomb.

This week, appearing before Sevenoaks magistrates, Starbuck admitted making the hoax call because of a grudge against the artist who scored a string of hits in the 1980s.

A police spokesman explained: "The court heard how while intoxicated,

Starbuck had called police. The caller said he had planted a bomb in the third tier of seating because he didn't like the artist Shakin' Stevens.

"Police had to evacuate the hall during the interval, whilst teams scoured the venue and seating for any potential devices. None were found and concert-goers were allowed back in for the remainder of the concert."

But police were already on the trail of the caller, tracking the phone to an address in Tunbridge Wells. Officers were dispatched and Starbuck arrested on suspicion of a bomb hoax.

This week he pleaded guilty to communicating false information.

The case has been passed to Maidstone Crown Court for sentencing on a date which is yet to be set.

Starbuck was remanded in custody.

Shaky's hits include This Ole House, Oh Julie and Green Door.



SANTAS ON THE RUN

SEEING RED: Charity event raises funds for British Heart Foundation **SEE INSIDE**

SHOPPING

X Factor joy at RVP lights

AMELIA Lily was forced to pull out of turning on the Royal Victoria Place Christmas lights yesterday – but that didn't stop the fun as her place was filled by fellow X Factor contestant James Michael and Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis. Miss Lily re-entered the ITV talent show last week. **PAGE 10**

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs boost at web speed-up

BT has confirmed it is creating a number of new jobs in the town as part of its roll-out of super-fast broadband across Kent. The new engineer roles will be split between Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury with former Armed Forces personnel among those set to fill the vacancies. **PAGE 10**

COUNCIL

Panel to help town planning

COUNCIL leader Bob Atwood has hosted the first meeting of a special town panel, created to help guide development plans for the town centre. Among the diverse range taking part in the panel is a well-known blogger, a famous architect, a school teacher and business figures. **PAGE 2**

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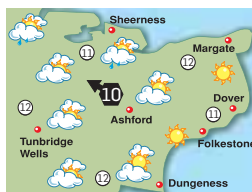
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TODAY: A fine and dry day, with long spells of sunshine and just a little patchy cloud at times. Moderate south-easterly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	04.24	5.8	17.03	5.6
Margate	05.08	4.1	17.57	4.2
St Mary's	10.23	4.7	23.09	4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Monday	Max 13C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 12C	Min 8C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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DEVELOPMENT

People's panel to help council find the way to the future for our town centre

By Chris Britcher

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COUNCIL leader Bob Atwood says a new town panel will play a vital role in what has been one of the most controversial areas of local politics in recent years.

Formed by Cllr Atwood as part of his Town Centre Action Plan (TCAAP), the 14-strong panel comprises of a host of people from diverse aspects of the town, from a high-profile blogger to a senior executive of the town's biggest employer, and from a famous architect to a working mother.

The aim is for the panel to help guide the direction of the town centre, and it will tackle the thorny issues of how to keep the town a major attraction while maintaining a balance between commercial and cultural demands.

Cllr Atwood explained: "The panel is a very important way to get a good cross section of the town on how the area should be developed over the next 20 years.

"Some members approached us asking to be included, others we approached. It in no way precludes individuals, groups or other interested parties contributing in other ways and part of the role of the panel would be to consider how they could maximise participation in future consultation exercises.

"Whilst the process by which we put this plan together is heavily regulated by statute and already includes many



CONTRIBUTION: The panel comprises people from all walks of life who have an interest in making the best of Tunbridge Wells

opportunities for the public and interested parties to contribute their views. I am keen to ensure that any town plan should reflect, as far as is possible, the views and aspirations of a convincing and representative cross-section of residents, visitors and businesses.

"I sincerely hope the panel will quickly find its feet and act successfully as an impartial pool of expertise which will help shape the future of Royal Tunbridge Wells for many years to come."

Among the members are Chris Cassidy, writer of the popular Anke

blog, David Clarke, operations director at AXA PPP, architect Ptolemy Dean, Katharine Mahler-Bech, member of the local strategic partnership and Town Forum, Richard Powell, vice principal of the Skinners' Kent Academy and Richard Simm, chairman of the Pantiles Traders.

The panel will meet on a regular basis, with another meeting due to be staged before Christmas.

Cllr Atwood added: "The panel will feed in its views on the emerging TCAAP. It will exist in this mode for

a limited period of time and will have an opportunity to listen to the evidence being gathered and to make suggestions for the council's working party to consider.

"Whilst for legal reasons the views of the panel cannot have any greater weight or status than that of other consultees, it will act as an important reality check to make sure Tunbridge Wells Borough Council does everything it can to ensure the emerging plan meets the hopes and expectations of residents, businesses and visitors."

CHARITY

Hundreds of Santas are needed for annual charity fun run

ANNUAL festive fundraiser the Tunbridge Wells Santa Jog takes place next month - with those taking part raising vital funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Starting and finishing at Calverley Gardens on December 4, the course allows those

taking part to run anything between 1km to 5km.

Money raised will go towards the charity's Mending Broken Hearts appeal, which this year marks its 50th anniversary.

Kim Brophy, fundraising volunteer manager for the

BHF, said: "Mums, dads, boys, girls, and even grandparents can ensure they're on Father Christmas' good list this year by signing-up for the Tunbridge Wells Santa Jog now. It doesn't matter whether people walk, run, or jog the route, but wearing a Father Christmas

costume is a must - and when it's supplied free with the registration pack there's no excuse not to."

The 1km track allows those taking part to do anything between one and five laps. The race gets under way at 10am with organisers expecting the

event to be over by 1pm.

The entry fee for adults is £10 if registered in advance, or £15 on the day. For those aged 12-16 it costs £7. Under 12s go free. There will be a prize for the best fancy dress costumes. To register call 01892 893 918 or email south@bhf.org.uk.

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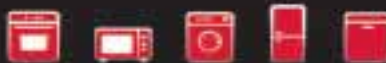
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OLYMPICS

Breathtaking castle could be your home during the Olympics – if you can afford it

By Ed Hill

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SOME of the world's wealthiest sports fans could be paying tens of thousands of pounds to stay in the lap of luxury at Leeds Castle during next year's London Olympics.

For the 16 days of the tournament the high-living visitors can enjoy full use of the castle's facilities, which include 40 bedrooms, a maze, nine-hole golf course, helipad and banqueting hall.

They can also enjoy food prepared by Michelin starred chefs, or try falconry and fishing.

Reports have suggested the castle could cost a whopping £1 million to let over the two-week period of the Games, or guests could pay £62,500 per night to enjoy the sumptuous surroundings in between cheering stars such as sprinter Usain Bolt, swimmer Michael Phelps, and British athletic Jessica Ennis.

The package also includes front row hospitality seats to watch the world's best athletes during the 2012 Games. Tick-



ets to nearly all the events have already sold out after hundreds of thousands of people entered the draw for seats inside the Olympic stadium.

The medieval castle, which dates back to the 10th century was once the home of Catherine of Aragon after Henry VIII remodelled it for her use.

However, a spokesman for the castle described the figures quoted as wild speculation.

He said: "We are a high-end venue for the Games whether it be as a conference venue or for hospitality. It depends on



Picture: PAUL JERRETT

the individual or company who came to us and their requirements. We would quote them the same figures as anyone else.

"In that way we would be no different from any other heritage site in the country.

"We very much hope the castle will be used during the Olympics, offering a luxurious base less than an hour from the action in London.

"It could be the most amazing headquarters or a private house party."

The castle is owned and run

by a charitable trust. It says any money raised during the Olympics would be used to help pay for restoration work.

The spokesman added: "Booking the castle would be a great way to create a real Olympic legacy."

The castle's trustees have agreed to consider closing to the public throughout any such letting, provided they considered it was in the long-term best interests of the charity to do so.

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

LOCATION: Guests could watch the likes athlete Jessica Ennis (left) in the 2012 Games, before they return to the beautiful Leeds Castle for a relaxing evening of luxury

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Water shortage fears

HOSEPIPE bans could be in place next spring because of the exceptionally dry autumn.

South East Water says it cannot rule out water restrictions or drought permits, which would allow it to take more water from local rivers to fill its reservoirs.

Levels in groundwater sources, including its west Kent sandstone aquifer, are below average for the time of year. The last 12 months have been the driest since 1976 in the region.

➔ Tax cut call for youth

NATIONAL Insurance contributions for 'micro' businesses should be cut to tackle youth unemployment, which topped one million this week.

That's the view of Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway chairman Roger House, who said: "This measure would target tax cuts where they are most needed, and halt rising youth unemployment. The Government must ensure that young people are not hindered at the very beginning of their careers."

➔ Lotto £500k winner

A MYSTERY Thunderball winner, known only as Mr B from Kent, has scooped a £500,000 Lottery top prize.

He won the cash by matching the five main numbers and the Thunderball in the draw on November 2, on the lottery's interactive channel.

A spokesman said: "Well done to Mr B, he has banked this amazing prize with just a few simple clicks – he didn't even have to pick up a ticket. If you play interactively we not only check your numbers but also let you know you have won – it couldn't be easier."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Managing director is 'still at the helm of County Hall' insists KCC as rumours continue to circulate

COUNTY Hall chiefs have vehemently denied speculation circulating on the internet that managing director Katherine Kerswell, pictured, is to leave the authority.

Kent County Council responded to rumours with a statement denying that Ms Kerswell had been dismissed or was on gardening leave.

A senior council source, however, told this paper she had not been seen at her desk for the past week and that trouble had been "brewing for some time".

But the KCC statement said she "is and remains the managing director" and that speculation was "completely untrue".

It said: "Since joining KCC in May, 2010, Katherine Kerswell has been an outstanding managing director. In a very tough financial climate and against a background of severe budget cuts, she has done a great deal to relieve the financial burden on Kent council taxpayers and has implemented [leader] Paul Carter and the cabinet's strategy for reshaping the council. "Significant savings have been made possible through the continuing restructuring process and the new operational framework presided over by Katherine Kerswell and the corporate management team so far.

"We would like to make it clear that Katherine Kerswell is and remains the managing director of Kent County Council.

"It is completely untrue to suggest that she

has been dismissed or put on garden leave."

The council stated that neither Ms Kerswell nor the council would be making any further public statement.

But while KCC denied reports, a County Hall source said Ms Kerswell had not been seen at her desk for the past week and it was believed lawyers were currently working out a compensation leaving package.

They also threw doubt on suggestions KCC could be heading in the direction of Wiltshire Council, which opted for a new management model without a managing director.

KCC refused to comment on the claims.

Social networking site Twitter had also been a hotbed of speculation.

Before KCC's statement was released denying reports, Lib Dem leader for Canterbury City Council Alex Perkins Tweeted that Ms Kerswell had "gone from KCC following rows with Tory backbenchers".

He also Tweeted: "Did (Paul) Carter's Kent County Council leadership kerfuffle lead to £200K Kerswell's KO?"

Leader Cllr Carter fought off leadership challenges from Cllr Keith Ferrin and Cllr Nick Chard last month.

Ms Kerswell joined the council in May, 2010, as group managing director on a hefty salary of £197,000. Her appointment followed the departure of chief executive Peter Gilroy.



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EDUCATION

Our chart-topping schools feted as proof the selective system works

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

STRONG performances by a host of Kent's grammar schools are "a testament to a successful selective education system" according to Kent County Council's education chief.

The comments come in response to Kent dominating a top ten of the best state schools in the south east and a number of schools soaring up the nationwide list.

The nation's top 2,000 schools were published in the 21st edition of the Sunday Times' Parent Power list.

Tonbridge's The Judd came second in the south east (15th in the UK), with Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar sixth (29th), Dartford Grammar eighth (36th) and Tonbridge Grammar ninth (39th).

Other schools performing well nationwide were Skinners in Tunbridge Wells (51st), Cranbrook School (74th) and Maidstone's Invicta Grammar School (76th).

The tables are compiled by using the latest exam results and taking account of many of the marking appeals that have taken place since the summer.

But it is the size of the improvements of the county's schools which most caught the eye.

Dartford Grammar School climbed an incredible 148 places from its position in 2010, where the school was ranked at 184. It was a similar story for Cranbrook School and Skinners', which



TOP PERFORMER: The Judd came second in the south east and 15th in the whole of the UK

both went up 40 places from their positions last year.

Mike Whiting, Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said he was delighted with the schools' success: "Education of our children in Kent is incredibly important. It's very positive to see that seven schools in the county have made it into the Sunday Times top 100 list.

"The results are, I believe, testament to a successful selective education system here in Kent that offers appropriate choices for the county's

secondary-aged children and their parents.

"Overall, in Kent our secondary schools' performance has improved and remains above the national average. This is down to the hard work of staff, students and their parents and the support of the county council.

"We will work towards having more Kent schools in the top 100 next year and celebrating their achievements."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Sneak peak at centre

MUMS-TO-BE get a chance to have a look around Maidstone Hospital's state-of-the-art new birth centre when a second open day takes place on November 23 between 4-7pm.

It follows a successful first event in October which attracted more than 200 people. Those attending get to inspect the two birthing rooms, four postnatal rooms with en-suite facilities, a kitchen diner and a small garden area. There is no need to book in advance.

➔ College hosts cook off

K COLLEGE in Tonbridge hosts the live final of the Kent Young Chef 2011 contest next Friday, as the eight finalists come together to battle it out over a hot stove to create an original recipe featuring seasonal, local, produce.

The school children, aged between 10 and 14-years-old, will cook for two hours before a panel of judges, headed up by celebrity chef and Kent restaurateur Richard Phillips. Mr Phillips runs Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells.

➔ Free parking for lights

SHOPPERS turning out to celebrate the switching on of the Sevenoaks Christmas lights can do so without having to pay to park, after council chiefs waived the fee.

The switch-on and late night shopping event on Friday, November 25, will see all the town centre car parks and on-street parking areas free to park in from 6pm. It is hoped the move will swell the crowds and boost trade.

Tiger pounces onto the education scene

ALTHOUGH not yet finally approved, Tiger primary has recently been completed in the premises of the £30m New Line Learning Academy (NLL) in south Maidstone.

It is likely to be the first case in Kent where the absence of place planning for approving free schools comes head to head with established schools.

The new school will be in direct competition with three local primary schools: Bell Wood Primary, Molehill Copse Primary and Oak Trees Community School.

Whilst these have all been found inadequate by Ofsted, Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) is planning to take over all three and run them as academies.

AET is a successful group which already runs 17 academies, including three primaries, so we must expect standards to improve rapidly.

The Tiger free school is to be run by Future Schools Trust, which operates two secondary academies in Maidstone: Cornwallis and NLL, but has currently no primary expertise.

In September, local primary demand was such that

Independent education advisor Peter Read takes a look at what is likely to be Kent's first free school



the three schools started with just 100 children, although there were 117 places available.

Whilst the proposed Tiger school may draw children from different parts of Maidstone its main catchment is likely to be this area, and even before its planned intake increases from 30 to 60 children in 2014, it is evident there are insufficient children to make all four schools viable.

So why has the proposal come forward? I sense that Future Schools Trust sees a business opportunity.

Secondly, Future Schools Trust faces an embarrassing situation with regard to NLL. The school was expecting just 101 new Year Seven students in September although the academy has been built to take in 210. This is not financially viable, so what to do with all the empty spaces?

Answer – site the Tiger free school in the new buildings, designed for secondary school students and share with them.

Applications for the new school are now invited, but the process is independent of KCC's admission procedure, so it will create havoc with admissions to and planning for primary schools in south Maidstone, as no one will know which schools children will be attending.

I think it inevitable we shall see such battles more often in the future, as academy groups struggle to win the great new education monopoly game.

Sadly, children will be the victims, as some schools lose out in the battle for supremacy, standards will fall at these and we forget what schools are there for.

■ **For more schools advice and information see www.kentadvice.co.uk.**



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£13.00 per child under 16

Children under 3 eat for free

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Saturday 31st December

£50.00 per adult & £25.00 per child under 16

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£12.00 per child under 16

Children under 3 eat for free

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News

for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk

CHARITY

Tree of Light Appeal blooms once more

THIS year's Tree of Light Appeal was launched on Wednesday by the Mayor as the lights went on at a giant Christmas tree at the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells to remember loved ones.

The hugely popular appeal, organised by the local Rotary Club, allows people to make a donation and have a special dedication hung from the tree's branches.

All money raised from the event goes to Pembury's Hospice in the Weald. Christmas cards and presents will also be on sale by the tree this weekend.

CRIME

Purse chains handed out to beat the crooks

POLICE are to hand out free purse chains in a bid to clampdown on a spate of purse snatches in and around Maidstone town centre.

It follows reports of a number of thefts where purses have been taken from shoppers' handbags.

Next Tuesday, November 22, officers will be at the Urban Blue Bus next to the Queen's Monument to offer crime prevention advice and to hand out free purse chains, which secure the purse to the handbag, between 10.30am and 11.30am.

HISTORY

Water firms help save war time drinks cart

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

RESTORATION of a cart used by soldiers on the battlefields of World War One has been given a major boost by a £3,000 corporate donation.

A group of historians snapped up the cart after one of its members spotted it for sale on online auction site eBay.

Realising its place in history, Peter Zieminski from Keston, a member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Living History Group, then got other members of the group, including Nigel Bristow from Tonbridge, to help restore it.

The cart was used to keep soldiers supplied with water during battles.

To ensure the project could get under way, two local water companies, South East Water and Southern Water donated a total of £3,000; extra to funds raised by the Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association.



LIVING HISTORY:

The water firms' cash has enabled work to restore the water cart to go ahead

Mr Bristow said: "Our living history group aims to perpetuate the proud memory of those brave people who lost their lives fighting for their country during World War One. We do this by bringing the period to life so new generations can understand what people went through in the trenches.

"Ensuring the troops had an adequate supply of water was vital to keep their strength up.

"The water carrier we found is thought to be the only known remaining example

and I am now undertaking the careful job of restoring it to its former glory."

Beverley Thompson, senior public relations manager at Southern Water, said: "When we heard of the project we knew we had to support it. Not only are we helping to ensure we remember those who fought for us, but we are also keeping alive a bit of our water history too."

■ See www.thequeensown.com for more information about the history group.

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News

KOS CAMPAIGN

Campaign's simple message: If you don't need the money, give it to someone who does

By Marijke Cox

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KENT'S great and good have thrown their weight behind the Surviving Winter campaign to help prevent early deaths this winter.

Starting the ball rolling was former Maidstone MP and Strictly Come Dancing star Ann Widdecombe, who pledged to support those in need by donating her £200 winter fuel payment to those who need help surviving the cold season.

The tax-free sum is given by the Government to everyone aged over 60, whatever their financial situation.

The Surviving Winter campaign, backed by Saga, looks to encourage those more well off to donate all or some of their payment to those less fortunate.

Launched by the Kent Community Foundation with Archant KOS Media, the drive aims to cut winter deaths and help the most vulnerable and elderly in communities.

During a packed launch at the House of Commons, broadcaster Martyn Lewis highlighted the importance of the campaign.

"The message is so simple; if you don't need the money, donate it to someone who does," he said.

"It's vital we help old and vulnerable people who are at risk of fuel poverty this winter."

Kent's MPs are supporting the drive and calling on their more fortunate constituents aged over 60 to donate their winter fuel payment.

Maidstone and The Weald MP Helen Grant said elderly and vulnerable people should not have to choose between heating or eating.

"Many elderly people will have to make a choice between keeping warm or eating this winter and that is totally wrong in this day and age," she said. "That's why the Surviving Winter campaign is so important. It's a simple way of really helping those who need it."

"The launch was extremely well-attended which shows what an important issue this is."



SUPPORTER: Ann Widdecombe

MP for South Thanet Laura Sandys and MP for Chatham and Aylesford Tracey Crouch have also both given their support.

Ms Sandys said: "The Surviving Winter fund is a great initiative which helps those who are struggling to pay their fuel bills. Through encouraging those who are fortunate enough not to need their winter fuel payments to donate to those most in need, it will help support the most vulnerable across Kent."

"Keeping warm in the cold weather is so important for health and well-being – yet 6.6 per cent of people in Thanet are living in fuel poverty. If more people were to give away their £200 Government payment this winter, we could start to see many more residents helped."

Ros Altmann, director general of over-50s provider Saga, which has offices in Folkestone and Thanet, spoke to Archant KOS Media at the launch.

"This really is vital. This winter we've got a real problem with rising fuel prices combined with cuts to fuel allowance," she said.

"We've seen some severe winters in Kent in the last few years because of where the county is positioned. It seems to hit us, which we saw with the snow last winter."

"Before the campaign started I had people writing letters to me saying they didn't need their winter fuel payment. What we wanted to do was get involved in helping people like that help others who struggle in the winter."

Support for the campaign is



building, with a number of high profile donating their £200, including Sir Michael Parkinson and Sir David Jason.

Kent Community Foundation said people under 60, who do not receive the winter fuel payment, are also able to donate to the cause.

■ You donate at www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html or post a cheque along with the form on this page.

Surviving Winter Campaign

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News

Picture: GARY BROWNE/THANET EXTRA



ROYAL WELCOME:
Artist Tracey Emin met the Queen during her visit to Margate's Turner gallery last Friday, where Her Majesty also spoke to World War Two veterans in the town's Old Town, including Wally Smith (below) who fought at Arnhem

Picture: PAUL AMOS/THANET EXTRA



Picture: PAUL JERREAT



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GREETINGS:
Thousands turned out to welcome the Queen to the Thanet town on Armistice Day

QUEEN'S VISIT

Royal approval for seaside town's regeneration

By Ed Hill

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THE streets of Margate were filled with colour last week when the Queen visited the Thanet seaside town.

Her Majesty, joined by her husband the Duke of Edinburgh, landed at Manston Airport last Friday morning before travelling in a modern Rolls Royce, bearing the Royal Standard, to Market Street in the Old Town.

She arrived just after expectant crowds had observed a two-minute silence for Armistice Day.

In the market place she met town dignitaries and the Bishop of Dover Trevor Willmott before making her way to the Cupcake Café, where she was given a special gift-wrapped cup cake.

Lisa Hemingway owner of the café said: "We are thrilled the Queen's visit raises awareness that we are here. It shows that Margate town is beginning to revive. We are looking to open a second shop when we can."

The Royal party stopped to talk to the cheering crowds waving hundreds of Union Jacks, before meeting veterans from World War Two.

Wally Smith, 88, who fought at Arnhem, said: "It was a great honour I did not think I would see it in my lifetime; this was a personal moment for me."

The Royal party then travelled to the nearby Turner Contemporary where crowds cheered her into the entrance.

After touring the gallery and meeting staff she

spoke to renowned artist Tracey Emin who grew up in the town.

After lunch the Queen took a short walk to the RNLI station close to the Turner.

Crewmember Emlyn Harris said: "It was a great day for Margate lifeboat station, she seemed genuinely interested in what we do."

Thanet council leader Cllr Bob Bayford, said: "It's made me feel really proud to represent the town. It's a positive demonstration of the regeneration effect of the Turner Contemporary."

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News

SHOPPING

Amelia's X Factor reprieve puts James in the spotlight

By Chris Britcher

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AMELIA Lily was forced to pull out of turning on the Christmas lights at Tunbridge Wells' Royal Victoria Place shopping centre on Thursday after her shock return to the live TV talent show.

Instead, she was replaced by fellow X Factor star James Michael for the switch on in front of thousands of shoppers.

Miss Lily, 17, had been booked to turn on the lights at the popular shopping complex.

But after Frankie Cocozza was forced to leave the show amid allegations of drug use, producers gave the four singers booted out by the judges on the first live show the chance of a reprieve.

The pink-haired singer polled 48 per cent of the vote, propelling her back into the live finals and making her one of the favourites to win the X Factor crown.

But her success caused a headache for Royal Victoria Place chiefs who had been set for Amelia playing a key part in their festive celebrations.



However, with just days to go they replaced her with Michael, 20, who was also trying to get back on the show after being shown the door by boys' judge Gary Barlow in the first week.

He joined Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis at the Christmas Lights Switch On Party which also saw Santa open his grotto.

Marc Burchett, senior marketing manager of Royal Victoria Place, said: "It is extremely sad that Amelia was unable to perform, but we're delighted James was able to join us.

"We totally understand this

MY TURN: James Michael took Amelia Lily's place at switch on

would have proved very difficult for Amelia with her busy rehearsal schedule and everyone at Royal Victoria Place would like to wish her the best of luck in the rest of the competition."

EMPLOYMENT

BT broadband roll-out is jobs boost for former Armed Forces personnel

BT is to speed up its roll-out of super-fast broadband across Kent by hiring more than 40 new engineers.

The communications company says the new recruits will be based in Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and concentrate on helping the company deliver fibre-based broadband to two-thirds of UK homes and businesses by the end of 2014.

What is more, it says of the 44 new jobs, many of them will be ex-Armed Forces personnel. All the new engineers are due to be in place by the end of January.

John Weaver, BT regional director for the south east, said the acceleration of the £2.5 billion programme would help the economy, drive regional growth and benefit local communities who were keen to experience the technology.

He said: "The new jobs we are announcing this week will help us to support and create the digital infrastructure the county needs for the jobs of tomorrow. Our current engineering teams are busy installing fibre broadband across Kent at a pace we believe rivals anywhere in the world – and our new recruits

will help us take the new technology to even more homes and businesses."

The announcement was welcomed by Malcolm Hyde, south east CBI regional director, who said: "These are skilled, high-quality jobs, which will make a major contribution to the future success of our region. The roll-out of super-fast broadband is one of the most important investments taking place in the south east. It can play a key role in building a stronger business community."

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News

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TOURISM

Attractions urged to make My Kent Big Weekend 2012 the biggest yet

By Erica Jones

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VISITOR destinations and attractions across the county have been invited to sign up for My Kent Big Weekend 2012 – the annual weekend ticket giveaway celebrating the tourism industry.

My Kent Big Weekend 2012 will on March 17-18, and will also mark the end of the first England Tourism Week highlighting the importance of the industry to the national economy.

Organiser Visit Kent says next year's event will be the biggest and best, with even more destinations and venues taking part and more free tickets for local people to explore new places and experiences on their doorstep.

Visit Kent is also working with colleagues in the Nord Pas de Calais and cross-Channel providers Eurotunnel and Eurotunnel so some Kent residents can enjoy a day at attractions in France, and vice versa.

Destinations and event organisers taking part in the My Kent Big Weekend are asked to offer a number of free tickets for local people to visit their venue over the weekend. Details are then placed on the My Kent Big Weekend website which residents can browse and then put in requests for free tickets. Once the website closes, tickets are allocated on a ballot system.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "Six years ago we launched the Kent Big Day Out and it has exceeded all our expectations."



VISITORS' DELIGHT:

Canterbury Cathedral took part in last year's event, and Visit Kent's Sandra Matthews-Marsh hopes even more businesses will sign up

"This year we took the event over two days and received more than 51,000 applications for tickets. On average people spent nine minutes browsing 25 pages of the site, and there were more than 812,000 page views during the ticket application period."

"It is a tremendous showcase for all the attractions and experiences Kent has to offer going far beyond our iconic castles and historic houses to include many hidden gems such as art galleries, museums, sporting venues, creative experiences, and even the whole centre of a village."

"This year we were able to give away 18,000 free tickets to 120 different venues and I am optimistic that in 2012 more businesses will be able

to share in the fun and the long-term marketing benefits this event offers. Our research shows more than 85 per cent of attractions taking part in 2011 thought it was an excellent event for them and, in total, participating attractions received more than £150,000 in secondary spend."

The aim of the My Kent Big Weekend campaign is to raise local awareness of the wealth of businesses in Kent that entertain visitors and contribute more than £3.2 billion annually to the county's economy.

■ To find out more about go to www.visitkent-business.co.uk, call Kelly Sharp on 01227 812912 or email kelly.sharp@visitkent.co.uk. The deadline for registration is December 31.

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News

CAMPAIGN

Safety campaign aims to cut number of child road deaths

By Marijke Cox

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A GOVERNMENT safety campaign has been launched in a bid to slash the number of child deaths and injuries on the county's roads.

Last year, 374 pedestrians and cyclists aged five to 16 were killed or injured in Kent and Medway.

Despite a 61 per cent drop in the number of under-16s killed or seriously hurt on the roads in the last decade, authorities are looking to cut this even more by launching a campaign looking to push the message to children to stay safe – particularly now with the darker mornings and evenings.

Child pedestrians remain the most vulnerable group, accounting for 67 per cent of all deaths and injuries nationally compared with other incidents.

Last year in Kent, 100 child pedestrians aged between six and 11-years-old were severely injured.

To help equip children with



MESSAGE: Ads will air on TV

the skills they need to stay safe, a new THINK! safety campaign called Tales of the Road has been rolled out on TV and in cinemas highlighting the dangers of not taking care on the roads and the importance of the Green Cross Code.

Educational websites are also being used to help spell out the dangers to youngsters and parents using fun resources and downloadable activity sheets.

Road safety team leader at Kent County Council Steve Horton said road accidents could be life-changing events and injuries to children were all the more tragic.

He said: "The campaign provides parents and guardians with a few simple tips to help their children stay safe, particularly with the darker mornings and evenings at this time of year.

"Parents can make a huge difference by demonstrating good road user behaviour and reinforcing messages like 'stop, look, listen', 'find a safe place to cross' and 'be bright, be seen'."

Road safety minister Mike Penning said while Britain's roads were among the safest in the world and deaths and serious injury were down 72 per cent since 1990, there were still almost 1,000 children injured in the south east last year.

■ For more details go to <http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk> or <http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/early-years-and-primary/>

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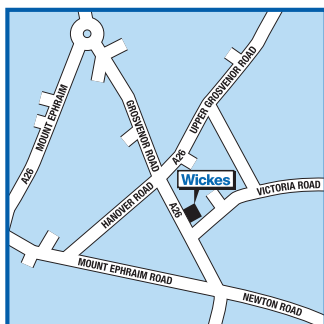


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EVER wanted to experience the thrill of handling birds of prey? Then here's your chance.

The Hawking Centre has teamed up with this newspaper to offer readers the chance to win an amazing VIP interactive experience day, flying these magnificent birds across the idyllic and picturesque grounds of Doddington Place Gardens, near Sittingbourne.

One lucky winner – and a guest – will get an exclusive hands-on day session with birds including owls, hawks, vultures, falcons and a Chilean blue eagle.

The incredible day-long event is worth £490.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic experience simply answer the following question:

What kind of eagle can be flown at The Hawking Centre?

a. African tawny eagle

b. Chilean blue eagle

c. Philippine eagle

Then simply text EAGLE (space), your answer, your name and address and send it to 64343.



WING IT: Spend a day with birds of prey at The Hawking Centre

THE HAWKING CENTRE

Text charges cost £1 plus standard network rate. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but you may still be charged.

Your number may be used by Archant KOS Media. If you do not wish to receive information on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, call 0844 800

1188. Text entry starts on Saturday, November 19 and closes on November 29, 2011.

And don't worry if you don't win. As Christmas is approaching The Hawking Centre is also offering a Christmas discount of 20 per cent off all bird flying experiences – perfect for unusual and original Christmas gifts for loved ones of all ages.

For more details visit www.thehawkingcentre.co.uk or call 01795 473680.

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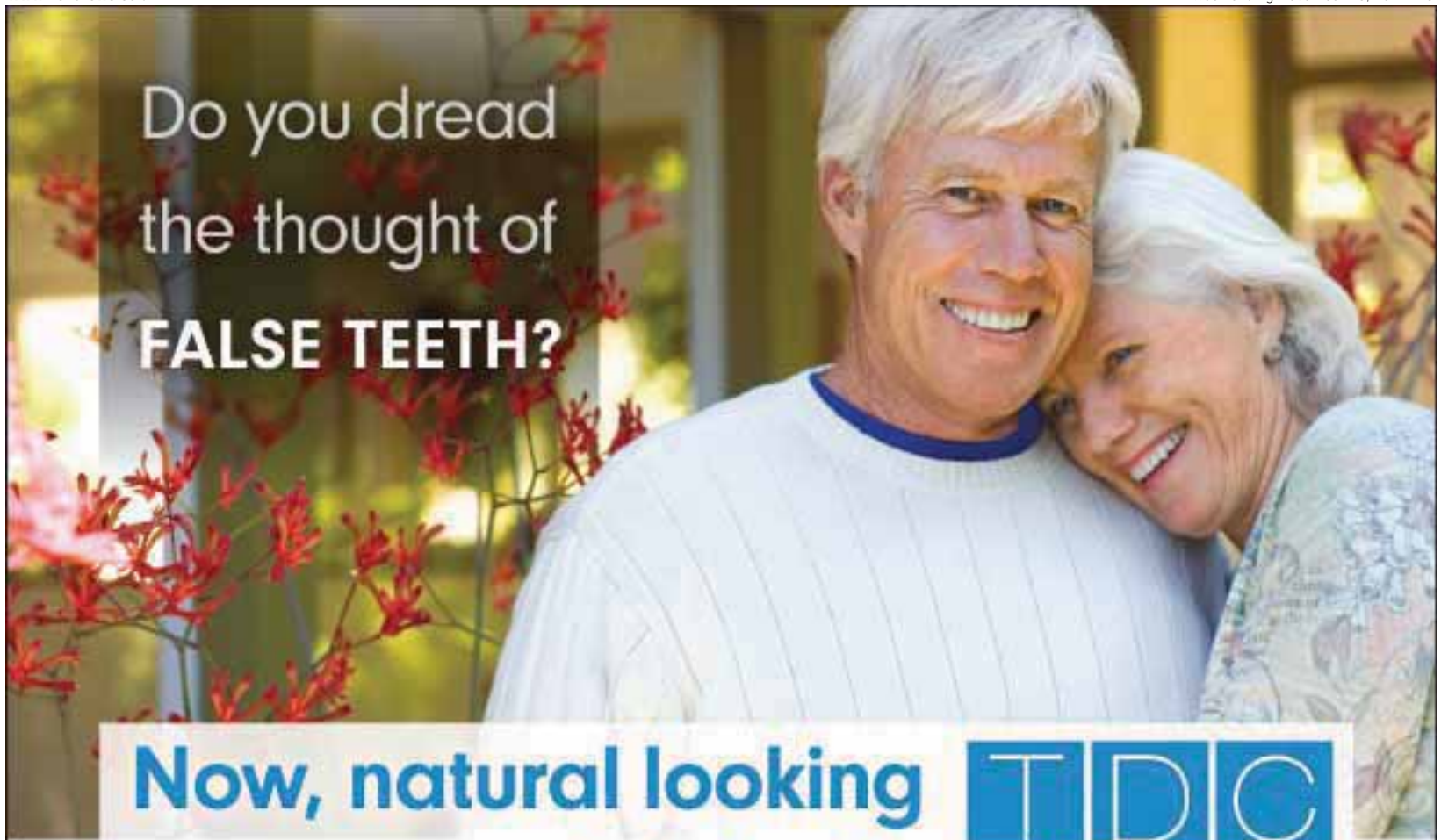
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CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**
MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**
TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**
WANNA spend Chimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**
SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**
CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**
HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**
SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**
MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**
LOOKING for a nice soul mate, diners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**
FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**
LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**
BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**
I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**
KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**
NETALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**
DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**
PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**
JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional OHAC, WLTM male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007**
DIANE successful feisty business woman, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**
ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**
ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**
JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**
LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**
YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388484**
TALL slim, blonde female, kind, caring, honest, seeks older male, 78 plus to treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378233**
LIFE is too short to live it alone! Eve, attractive blonde blue eyed bubbly lady looking for similar genuine tactile person for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378011**
TAMMY young 31yr old good looking brunette with no ties, seeking fun romantic guy for meals out, cosy nights in and more. No time wasters pls. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378009**
HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTM male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**
CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725**
FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**
WHERE have all the good men gone? Cassie slim attractive female with lots of love to give, seeking similar sensitive companion. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 37529**
AMELIA fun, loving, late 40's, blonde, attractive, likes walks, meals out, seeks similar white male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377657**
DIANA attractive lady, OHAC, blue eyes, fair hair, 5ft 4ins, slim, 60, seeks caring gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376803**
BERYL 68, ex nurse, lonely, seeking gent of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376711**
LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**
ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. **ACA. can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**
FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**
SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**
LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**
TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**
LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**
LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**
REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**
JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**
BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**
ELIZABETH independent, no ties; solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**
SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**
SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**
TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**
MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557**
CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**
PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**
ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**
ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**
JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**
PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**
CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**
CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**
CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**
BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**
Hi I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**
ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**
34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**
FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**
BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**
22YR old leggy blonde, seeking like-minded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**
SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**
CARING 41yr old genuine single mind, wanting LTR with caring man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379707**
DOREEN 70's, 5ft 7ins, medium build, green eyes, likes sports, walks, Irish/country music, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373731**
JULIE long haired blonde with big blue eyes and size 12 figure, loves good wine, meals out, good conversation, WLTM young at heart male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377533**
RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTM reliable male for diner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**
LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**
TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist, well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional man, 60ish for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375741**
JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375511**
GENUINE honest, curvy lady modern smart, friendly, seeking genuine gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376275**
HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**
PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**
JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**
AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**
SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**
LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**
ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**
FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371399**
LISAN N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**
TANYA 35, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220**
SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321**
VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205**
AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**
ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371577**
MARK 38, 5ft 9ins, athletic build, seeks professional female, slim, 28-48 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379665**
ROBERT 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, medium build, seeks sincere, caring female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377785**
52YR old male, honest, reliable, seeks slim female, 40-48 for friendship, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377747**
JAMES intelligent, lively, professional writer, 54, based in Canterbury, kind, witty, no children/baggage, seeks lively lady, 35-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376787**
DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**
MATURE man, enjoys life, socialising, N/S, solvent OHAC, seeks attractive lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378803**
LEE seeks nice female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388286**
DAVID 60's, 5ft 9ins, N/S, likes dogs, walks, aviation, WLTM N/S local lady for fun nights and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378549**
JAMES professional, 50's, 5ft 10ins, well travelled, seeks sensual, feminine, slim lady, 35-52, any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376723**

Gay Seeking

PHILIP young 58, looking for N/S romantic, beautiful lady, under 50, any race for excitement, love, romance. Own home in France and England, love food and much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379631**
MALE 58, widow, 5ft 8ins, cuddly, blue eyes, seeks female for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388448**
RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, likes sports, holidays, cinema, countryside, meals out, walks, seeks genuine female for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379313**
JAG mid 40's, likes nights out, socialising, wining/dining, reading, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388322**
INEXPERIENCED 40 something male, seeks mature female for fun, companionship and education in life's little pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378771**
VIC tall, slim, N/S, 62, divorced, honest, employed, seeks nice girl for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388130**
RICHARD 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, no ties, varied interests, seeks romantic, understanding, cuddly lady, 51-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377835**
RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, meals out, country walks, cinema, seeking a happy LTR, 36-62. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379715**
MARTIN bi CD, 50's, seeks similar for fun times. Can accommodate or travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374351**
BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-60's for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943**
ALAN experienced bi male, seeks similar guy or couple for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379059**
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PAUL looking for someone for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379827**

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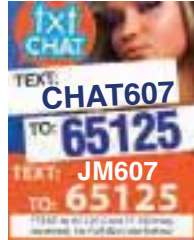
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News

CRIME

Final member of crime gang jailed for his part in string of burglaries

A CAREER criminal who admitted dozens of commercial burglaries, including nine in Kent, has been locked up for five-and-a-half years.

Canterbury Crown Court heard how Tyler Rawlins worked as part of an organised group of thieves who damaged and stole items amounting to more than £1.5 million during a seven-month campaign.

Rawlins, 21, of Berkshire Way, Mitcham, Surrey, admitted conspiring to commit 40 burglaries, and perverting the course of justice.

As one of the main instigators and organisers, he was behind a series of burglaries and attempted burglaries between January 3-July 27 last year.

The group targeted high street supermarkets as well as industrial units in Kent, Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Hertfordshire and London. They initially at-



IN PRISON: Tyler Rawlins

tempted to steal wall-mounted cash machines and then moved on to attacking industrial units to steal clothing, gaming equipment, computers and other

property, using stolen vans on cloned number plates.

They would visit the locations first and check for security, returning later under cover of darkness when they would smash holes in the side of buildings to gain access.

Following an investigation by Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, five people were arrested, four of whom have already been jailed for a total of more than 15 years.

Rawlins went on the run but was arrested in Hampshire on June 24 on unrelated matters.

The burglaries and attempted burglaries he admitted to included two in Sevenoaks; two in Maidstone; two in Sittingbourne; three in Dartford; and one in Basildon, Essex.

Judge St John Stevens said there had been a "sophisticated and prolonged period of offending" by the group.

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The next Kent Community Health NHS Trust public board meeting will take place on **Thursday 24 November 2011** starting at 10.00am and finishing at 1.00pm.

At Walter Nunn Room, Salomons Centre, David Salomons Estate, Broomhill Road, Southborough, Kent, TN3 0TG

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk

For questions relating to the board meeting please contact

Craig Sharples (Assistant Director of Corporate Services)

Tel: 01622 211909 or

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News

Picture: PENSURST PLACE AND GARDENS



WEDDINGS

The best place to say I do

PENSURST Place has been named the county's top wedding venue at a prestigious award ceremony.

The venue picked up the Best Venue Award at the annual Kent Wedding Awards. The prize was presented at an official gala awards ceremony held at the Ashford International Hotel.

Nikki Evans, head of banqueting and events at Penshurst Place and Gardens, who manages a team of seven dedicated event and wedding co-ordinators, said: "We are thrilled. It is all down to our wonderful team and their commitment to make Penshurst Place the best venue in Kent."

Penshurst Place has been a licensed venue for ceremonies for over 20 years.

RESCUE

Pensioner's lucky escape from house fire

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a house in Dartford in the early hours of Tuesday after a fridge fire in an elderly man's kitchen.

Rescuers say the man in his 70s was lucky to escape with his life. Emergency services were summoned at around 2.29am to the terraced property in Park Road.

Eighty per cent of the kitchen was damaged by the fire and the resident is staying with neighbours.

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Quote HD12-KOS

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Your break starts when you check in at the 4* Brook Waterloo Hotel, in Crowthorne, Berkshire, on Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday evening enjoy dinner at the hotel. After breakfast on Wednesday morning, we join our coach for the short journey to Highclere Castle. We have a private tour of the



castle and a 2-course lunch in one of the state rooms. We return to the hotel mid afternoon.

INCLUDED:

- Tuesday night with dinner & breakfast at the 4* Brook Waterloo Hotel, Crowthorne, Berkshire - add Wednesday night half board for £45pp
- Wednesday visit to Highclere Castle with private tour and lunch, including return coach travel from the hotel



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For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Hotel, Isle of Wight - self drive

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KENT REMEMBERED



WARZONE: Sturry was left devastated by the parachute mine that dropped on the village in 1941

70th anniversary of the day the bomb fell

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SEVENTY years ago this week a village was left devastated by a parachute mine which tore through the High Street, killing 15 people.

While the decades have passed since that tragic day November 18, 1941, the memories remain for those Sturry parishioners still alive today who survived the attack.

Heartbreaking stories of those who died – seven of them children – were described in detail by newspapers at the time, including that of a young girl visiting a bakery whose body was found with her hand still clutching a bag of buns.

Reports stated that the village pub had been empty when the German airman dropped the bomb, but the landlord was left seriously injured and his wife dead.

The village, on the outskirts of Canterbury, was one of the most badly bombed in England during World War Two, with a large part of the High Street destroyed by the mine that fell that day.

The same aircraft dropped another bomb, but this landed in the village's allotments.

Sturry resident Margaret Johnstone is one of the remaining survivors of the Sturry blitz.

She had been just five at the time of the attack.

"I was very young so my memories are quite sparse, but I remember during that time spending a lot of time in the air raid shelter," she said.

"The village didn't recover



MEMORIAL: A plaque for those who died in the Sturry bombing

very quickly after that bombing and I know that because I can remember the large crater that was left by the bomb being there for a very long time.

"We were told not to go there of course, but we would go fishing and looking for newts. The crater was there for a long time before I remember them starting to build shops again."

The 75-year-old added: "Being so young I didn't notice the difference within the community, but I know that after the bombing things changed and we went to Canterbury to stay with relatives."

"I can also remember going to school and being taken to an air raid shelter."

"At night time we had to go outside to the shelter, which was quite gruesome. It interrupted a lot of our schooling – I'm surprised that we got so much done."

Mrs Johnstone said despite leaving Sturry once to live elsewhere, she returned 26 years

ago. "I have very fond memories of Sturry," she said.

To honour the fallen and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Sturry blitz, local historian Derek Butler, the Society of Sturry Villages and Sturry Parish Council was preparing to stage a service on Friday involving residents, the new Lord Lieutenant of Kent Lord De L'Isle, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury Cllr Ian Thomas, and the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Trevor Willmott.

An air raid siren was due to mark the start of the service with a wreath laid by Lord De L'Isle following the ceremony.

Speaking ahead of the service, deputy clerk of Sturry Parish Council, Mary-Clare Hutley, said people attending the event would be transported back in time.

"We have arranged for the top end of Sturry High Street to be changed into a 1941 street by members of Forward to Victory WWII re-enactment group, with vintage cars, a demonstration vehicle and re-enactors walking the pavements dressed in authentic 1940s clothing," she said.

"All the shops and homes have enthusiastically agreed to have bomb blast tape on their windows together with shop signs, changed and windows dressed for authenticity."

"Our parish office will be a ladies' clothing shop for the day and I will no longer be the deputy clerk but will attend in WAAF battledress."

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OPINION

Airport will cost us dearly

Trish Marchant of Medway Green Party explains just how much we'll all have to pay if the proposed Isle of Grain airport gets the go ahead

THE real cost of air travel to the environment continues to threaten to bankrupt our natural resources and the prospect of an airport in the Thames Estuary is a step too far.

The RSPB has been monitoring bird patterns for years in response to various airport plans and cites the Thames Estuary as one of the top five most important sites in the UK for water birds wintering or migrating.

Because of this the proposal to build an airport at Cliffe was deemed unsafe.

Even with an aggressive bird hazard management programme, the hazard to aircraft posed by birds was severe. It makes sense to reference Cliffe as the same would apply to any future hub proposal.

From an economic perspective, Cliffe offered a poor return on investment and was vulnerable to major cost over-runs.

The Cliffe airport proposal would have caused major social disruption with over 1,000 properties demolished, the new proposal at Grain is as yet devoid of this level of detail but it is quite clear that any airport would require significant construction work for the transport links, road and rail, which will impact on vast swathes of the natural environment.

When it comes to the climate change argument, let's remind ourselves why we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels with a quick summary of what climate change is.

Some of the gases in our atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, trap heat from the Sun reflecting off the Earth's surface, keeping the Earth warm. This is the natural greenhouse effect.

However human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, are increasing the concentrations of these gases in the atmosphere. These additional gases are enhancing the greenhouse effect, which is known as global warming.

The effect of this is to increase global surface and ocean temperatures and ultimately cause climate change. The major greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and water vapour.

How does aviation make a difference? Air travel is the world's fastest growing source of greenhouse gases and globally the world's 16,000 commercial jet aircraft generate more than 600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the world's major greenhouse gas, per year.

Indeed aviation generates nearly as much CO₂ annually as that from all human activities in Africa.

If aviation continues to grow at the current rate then it will



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Aviation generates nearly as much CO₂ as that from all human activity in Africa

account for half of what even the Government thinks is the most the UK should be emitting by 2050.

Aircraft emissions can also have a significant effect at ground level. Air and ground traffic at major airports can lead to pollution levels as high as city centres.

Air travel has an unfair advantage over other transport modes such as the car, bus and train because airlines don't pay tax on aviation fuel.

The absence of a fuel tax or an emissions-based levy allows airlines to charge artificially low ticket prices as the cost of pollution is passed on to society and we pay the price.

Now you have a whole rack of choices for your objections to an airport on or near the peninsula, choose all or some, but whatever you do make sure your voice is heard if or when the time comes.

KOS COMMENT

At least tell us of the misery about to arrive

JUST when you thought the rail chaos of last winter was a distant memory, the threat of more problems arises.

This time, though, it's not the weather – that is yet to come – but the introduction of the 'replacement bus service'... the three words every train passenger dreads.

Although we all know the work needs to be done, commuters have been let down so much in the past, many must feel they can take no more.

The only thing that will ease the pain is keeping them informed – and if train firms can do that, they have won half the battle.

Tribute for the town that gave so much

IT PLAYED a major role during the two world wars, and now Dover is set to take centre stage again to mark the huge sacrifices made by those who fought and died, with a new national war memorial. It's a fitting tribute for a town that saw massive civilian loss and was almost completely wiped out.

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Darnley Mausoleum, Cobham
by Andrew Whittaker from Northfleet

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Hub airport a vanity project

THE launch of the planned Thames Estuary Hub report has not answered the many serious questions marks dogging this scheme.

The planned costs for the proposed hub are more than £70 billion, made up of a £20bn airport with a further £50bn for the accompanying infrastructure and connections to London and the UK.

As with many large, extravagant infrastructure plans this proposal claims there will be little cost to the taxpayer and will quickly raise revenue for the Exchequer.

Predictably, as with many similar schemes, as the project develops costs will inevitably balloon leading to private investors becoming increasingly risk averse, requiring the state to take greater and greater responsibility for costs.

The viability of this scheme has not been shown and this latest report fails to adequately address this vital question.

There are many London airports which, with minimal

investment, could reap major benefits for customers, airlines and the tax payer. By developing better connections between existing airports we can boost capacity and cut waste.

Why, when there are more cost-effective ways to boost capacity for London airports, does this report propose wasting more money on a massive white elephant?

The report states the area for development is sparsely populated, empty and therefore ripe for the construction of a massive concrete slab over the Isle of Grain.

This ignores the major environmental difficulty with this scheme; that the proposed airport sits in the middle of a series of important natural and historical zones; a large Special Protection Area protected under an EU directive; a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and a popular public amenity, namely the RSPB Reserve of Northward Hill.

There is also the very high risk of a dangerous bird strike on an airplane leading to a potentially serious loss of life.

Building an airport in the middle of a historic bird

sanctuary is monumentally ill advised. As the danger of more extreme climate events increase for Britain, the marshes offer invaluable natural flood protection for London. The loss of this flood bank would lead to a greater need for expensive man-made flood defences for London, pushing up the proposed costs for this hub.

Now is not the time to borrow money for vanity projects. In a time of austerity it is wiser to use existing infrastructure more prudently than spend money we do not have on luxury developments we do not need.

Mark Reckless MP, Conservative Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood

Labour lies on learning truth

WE HAVE allowed left-leaning ideologues to dominate the argument about grammar education for too long.

How many millions of children have been denied the education they deserved by these ageing revolutionaries?

With China and India fast becoming the economic super powers of tomorrow we need to educate our children to the highest level possible if we are to maintain a high level of employment. This process must increasingly rely on grammar, technical and other specialist schools, tailor-made for each child's aptitude.

The les misérables of the Labour Party are institutionally incapable of ending their redundant class war on the so-called toffs.

Only in Labour's clunking, unlubricated mental recesses, where the past always dominates the future, do they imagine that these aristocratic peasant-trampers still exist.

The loss of much of Britain's manufacturing capacity is directly attributable to the intransigence and stupidity of the old unions and Labour's determination to stamp out excellence in our education system.

Dumbfounded foreign rivals, especially the Germans and the Japanese, could not believe this then-economic giant was handing them our future on a plate.

Worse still, these socialist

dissemblers misled the nation into believing that we could have it all, for free, while a cruel, cold world bided its time to teach us a much harder lesson.

They deceived vulnerable parents into believing that because the bright kid next door got a grammar school place, somehow, he was stealing their own child's future.

Lies piled upon slander, heaped upon misrepresentation.

The claim the free school meals barometer demonstrates that grammar school children come from richer homes is cynically obtuse.

Do we not all aspire to be better off and our kids spared the embarrassment of hand-outs? Is it possible that hard-working parents teach their own children to work hard? By example.

Only Labour and the NUT are able to twist this universal truth.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

KCC tightens its seat belts

I DON'T know whether I am

the only person to have noticed this, but Kent County Council leader Paul Carter keeps bleating about how KCC must cut its spending, closing down residential homes, limited spending on highway maintenance, etc.

But surprisingly enough, if you drive around the county you cannot help to notice that the KCC has spent a tremendous amount of taxpayers' money on new vehicles of all descriptions, from vans and trucks to gully suckers.

These can be clearly seen by anybody in the county as they are all liveried; there are now numerous 60 and 61 plate vehicles on the counties roads.

The other annoying thing is it appears the county council have not even gone to local suppliers, they are registered all over the country – Essex, Birmingham, I have even seen one with a Scottish registration number.

Throughout the county there must be hundreds of new vehicles on the roads – all KCC vehicles.

No doubt Cllr Carter will come up with some argument as to why this money has been well spent, and also why local suppliers have not benefited.

I think you will agree this does seem strange when he is telling everyone to tighten their belts.

J Watson, Tenterden

Ukip saviour on our horizon

MPs elected and trusted by the public to represent them in governing our country can no longer be trusted to do this.

Soon after each new 'cast-iron' statement is uttered, it falls apart and no convincing reason is ever given.

This applies to all the main parties.

We are, at the moment, free to believe them or not. Personally, I neither believe or trust them.

The European Union was thrust upon us by using stealth, cunning and guile by all the main parties.

These unprincipled methods will continue to flourish, all the time this nation accepts their lies without question.

As I see it, faith and Ukip are the only lifebelts on the ocean of lies we are awash with.

June More, Rusthall

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Make sure to check your savings returns

Q Some months ago, Halifax was offering 3pc interest to new investors in its tax-free Isa, and in my innocence I assumed I was also receiving 3pc on the £50,000 in my own Halifax Isa. Not so. Halifax had quietly reduced my Isa to 0.5pc. When I found this out and switched my money back to a 3pc account, I felt Halifax owed me some arrears of interest, but I had to complain before I recovered about £1,300. I am told that Halifax has changed its procedure and customers will be advised at the end of their agreement before being placed on just 0.5pc, but readers with similar bank or building society accounts would be well advised to keep an eye on this.

A Well done on clawing back the interest you thought you were due. I suspect some banks would have put up more resistance, so well done to Halifax as well, for backdating your higher paying account and coughing up the arrears once you had complained. Reading between the lines, my guess is that you were getting 3pc from a fixed-rate account, probably guaranteed for a year or longer.

An easy-access Isa would have paid lower interest from the start. The tricky thing about fixed-rate accounts is that you have to keep a close watch on what happens when they mature. Typically, your savings are automatically switched to a low interest easy access account unless, of course, you have already given instructions for something different to happen. This is not just an issue for Halifax customers. For example, lots of Nationwide investors have money in its one-year fixed-rate Isa that is maturing now, and the society has written to them, inviting them to reinvest. Many have been earning about 2.9pc interest, but unless they give instructions for reinvestment, their money is likely to end up in an account where interest starts at just 0.25pc. Nationwide has just withdrawn its popular 14-month fixed-rate Isa, which paid more than 3pc at the top end, so anyone who had been relying on switching into this should make inquiries right now to be sure their yield does not drop like a stone.

Q We need to move to a new area for reasons to do with my husband's work. We have found a house, but it looks as if selling our existing home could take time. If we rent it out instead, could there be any problems? Would we have to pay tax on the rents?

A If you make a profit by renting out your house then income tax is due. You can deduct a whole

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



range of expenses such as buildings insurance, council tax and water charges. If you use a lettings agency, you can deduct the agent's fees as well. You pay tax only on what's left. There is one possible problem, though. If there is a mortgage on your house, the chances are the mortgage was granted only for owner-occupation. To let the house to a tenant would need the agreement of your bank or building society, which may increase the rate of interest.

Q From 1973 to 1983, I worked for a building firm, and when I left I received a 'certificate of entitlement to benefits' from Crown Life. In 1994, I was told this had changed to Century Life, and now I have been told the scheme was wound up in 1996, and the assets transferred to the BEC Pension Trustee company. This was based in Kent, but I have been unable to locate it.

A BEC Pension Trustee still exists. You can contact it at 49 Monument Lane, Chalfont St Peter SL9 0HY. If this does not work, try the Pension Tracing Service (0845 6002 537). This is a government agency that aims to reunite people with pension rights from former employments.

Q I have been sent a notice by the tax office, giving me a Pay As You Earn code of 819T. Can you say what this means, please?

A The figures mean you are allowed an income of £8,190 this year before any tax is due. And the letter T is a warning flag to tax office staff, telling them there is something complicated about your finances. For example, you might have more than one source of income so extra care is needed to get your tax deductions right.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.



TIME FOR A REPRIEVE?: MPs are calling for return of cheque guarantee cards, a move which has been well received

Welcome for call on guarantee cards

By Adam Aiken
Editor MyMoney24

A CALL by MPs for cheque guarantee cards to be returned has been given a warm welcome by campaign groups – particularly those representing older people.

The Payments Council, whose members include the banks, abandoned the guarantee scheme in the summer, although it did a U-turn on its plans to phase out cheques altogether.

The council is compiling a report into the impact of the closure of the scheme, but now a committee of MPs has said the Government should consider bringing in legislation to force the industry to restore guarantee cards.

In a statement, the House of Commons Treasury select committee said: "The Payments Council must provide further details of the research it is undertaking on the guarantee card as well as the decision-making process it will undertake once the research is complete.

"There is a case for reintroducing either the cheque guarantee card scheme or an alternative mechanism to ensure cheque acceptors have confidence when accepting cheques.

"Without such a scheme, there is a risk that more and more shops and other bodies will refuse to accept cheques; the cheque would wither on

the vine. An increasing number of shops and other organisations are refusing to accept cheques as a result of the abolition of the guarantee card.

"The Government threatened to legislate to preserve cheques prior to the Payments Council's change of heart. When the Payments Council's report is to hand, the Government may wish to consider whether intervention on the guarantee card is also warranted."

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Older people do like to use cheques rather than credit or debit cards

ROS ALTMANN, OF SAGA

Ros Altmann, director-general of Sandgate-based over-50s group Saga, said: "This would be a fantastic development for several groups of people. Older people do like to use cheques rather than credit or debit cards – many over-50s have lived with cheques for virtually their entire lives, and don't quite trust electronic methods of moving of money,

but, equally, don't like carrying cash around.

"Small businesses or tradesmen also often rely on cheques for payment and would sometimes struggle without the security of guarantee cards.

"Of course, the decision earlier this year to keep cheques as a means of payment was great news, but it was never quite as great as it could have been.

"Without cheque guarantee cards, the vast majority of businesses were reluctant – or even refused point blank – to accept cheques as a means of payment. Younger generations are more comfortable with change and innovation – and view electronic movement of money as convenient – but older generations haven't quite accepted it."

Adrian Kamellard, chief executive of the Payments Council, said: "The Treasury Select Committee report asks for further details about the cheque guarantee card scheme closure.

"As already confirmed to them, we are on track and awaiting the results of the independent consumer and business research that we have commissioned to measure the impact of the closure.

"We will be publishing this research before the end of the year as well as sharing it with the Treasury Select Committee and, depending on what the research shows, setting out our next steps."

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Your business is our business

Warning over retirement as pensions hit by slump

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THOUSANDS of self-employed business-owners and employees will have to revise their retirement plans as a result of the Eurozone financial crisis and turmoil on the world's stock markets, according to a Kent pensions adviser.

David Brunning, managing director of Brunning Newman Houghton (BNH), the independent financial adviser based at Groombridge, believes that potentially the biggest losers will be those who are planning to, or may have to, retire in the next couple of years.

With the FTSE100, the index of the UK's leading companies, having fallen more than 15 per cent in the last three months, wiping billions of pounds off the value of British businesses and pension funds, many will need to reconsider their options if nearing retirement.

The self-employed, and the majority of private-sector employees, have money purchase pension plans. These rely on investment returns to deliver a retirement income, whether individual stakeholder and personal pensions or employers' pension schemes. The more the pension fund falls, the lower the pension income when a worker retires.

Brunning said: "Employees relying

on money purchase pensions and expecting to retire in the next few years will have to make some tough choices.

"If they have the flexibility to continue working, they may want to defer taking their pension until markets recover. However, if their employment or health situation forces them to stop work, they face having a lower pension income than they anticipated."

The outlook for retirement planning is also being made worse by poor annuity rates. At retirement, most employees use their pension fund to buy an annuity, which is a guaranteed income payable for the rest of their lives.

"Annuity rates are based on Government Gilts, interest rates and longevity; interest rates are low and may get lower. Gilt yields are poor and people are living longer; they are also affected by the latest £75 billion quantitative easing announced by the Bank of England.

Brunning said: "With investment returns and annuity rates under pressure, it is very important that clients really look at their retirement plans.

"They need to have a realistic understanding of how much their pension could contribute to their standard of living after they stop working."

However, the problem is not limited to individuals.

Tim Mills, BNH senior consultant, who specialises in advising companies on employee benefits, said: "There are still a number of private-sector firms in the South East with defined benefit [final salary] pension schemes that guarantee their employees' pension.

"This guarantee is based on expected investment returns. If investment returns fall, then the shortfall has to be made up by the employer, possibly at the expense of other investments in their business. The current problems in the investment market, coupled with wider economic downturn, will inevitably put pressure on businesses to cut costs, and closing these guaranteed pensions will be on the agenda."

BNH recommends pension investors take steps to improve their situation. Having an up-to-date value and a projection to a planned retirement age will help establish the potential level of any future annuity and pension income.

Finally, members say that for those approaching retirement the key is to get independent advice about the ways they can draw pensions, including medically-underwritten annuities, and of course review any other investments they may have which could be used to provide an income in retirement. Advice can also be given about the pension



FUTURE PLANNING: David Brunning says pensions are still a good thing

arrangement itself as older plans may be much more expensive than modern pensions.

Despite the economic situation, Brunning remains confident about the role of pensions in the future.

"Pensions in all their forms remain a vital part of most people's retirement plans and may be worth thousands or hundreds of thousands of pounds," he said. "Against a background of global financial turmoil and economic pressures closer to home, now is the time to dust off the paperwork and get your pension reviewed."

STAFF

Saga celebrate people management award

LIFESTYLE organisation Saga has been handed the Gold Standard mark from employment group Investors in People.

The Folkestone business underwent a detailed two-week assessor visit and audit process before being awarded the top prize for its people-management strategies and performance.

This award places Saga among the top 3 per cent of companies in the UK with an official accreditation recognising excellence in the development of employees.

The Investors in People group noted: "There is such a culture of continuous improvement within the business and the passion of all 'to do things properly' that staff are brimming with positive energy and excitement for the future.

"This has been created by the excellent senior management team who are focused on engaging people in continuous improvements."

Saga, which is hiring again in Thanet and Folkestone, had to submit more than 165 pieces of supporting evidence and asked a large number of staff to volunteer themselves for intensive interviews about the company.

Roger Ramsden, chief executive of Saga Services, said: "We are absolutely delighted."

CONSERVATION

Port joins wildlife trust in project to restore Dover chalk downland

THE Port of Dover is providing more than 90 acres of chalk downland to the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) in a new partnership with the group.

Land in the Old Park Hill area of Dover's Port Zone will be managed by the trust with the aim of creating a nature reserve to be enjoyed by the community.

Tim Waggott, the port's director of finance and commercial, said: "We're thrilled that we could release the potential of this site, enabling Kent Wildlife Trust to transform it into a dedicated wildlife habitat for the benefit of the community.

"The port will support the work of KWT as part of a dedicated steering group in overseeing this new project. We hope the site will become a sanctuary both for



the wildlife we wish to attract and for our community within the urban fabric of Dover."

John Bennett, chief executive of Kent Wildlife Trust, said: "This will be a long and difficult task, but the outcome – the return of a rare, beautiful landscape rich in wildlife – will be a treasure for Dover and its residents."

FOOD

Kent Crisps head for Continental food fair

THE unique flavours of Kent Crisps are being revealed to the European market as part of a food trade fair in the French town of Arras.

The hand-cooked crisps, designed to show off the flavours of the Garden of England, are made from potatoes grown at the Quex Park estate near Birchington, itself just 22 miles from the French coast.

Bosses at producer Quex Foods are hoping that the show in France will allow their name and their product to flourish on the Continent.

Managing director Anthony Curwen said: "We know the British love our Kent Crisps, so it's going to be fascinating to see what the French make of them."

The distinctive Ashmore cheese-and-onion flavour has already won a Great Taste Award, while the oyster-and-vinegar flavour, a first for the crisp industry, has received backing from MasterChef critic and food fanatic John Torode, who described them as delicious.

The show runs until Monday, November 21, with Kent Crisps' attendance being made possible by the Transmanche Enterprise Network, which is funded via the cross-border co-operation programme Interreg IVA 2 Seas and Canterbury City Council.

Business Week

For more business news go to businessforkent.co.uk

COMPETITION

Firm cashes in with award

A DARTFORD pawnbrokers has won the prestigious Employer Of The Year Award at the Trade Association's annual ceremony.

Pickwick Pawnbrokers entered the competition for the first time this year and was invited to the annual National Pawnbrokers Association conference event to recognise the best in the business.

The company, established in 2004, has six branches in south London and Kent, and won the award after Eltham branch manager Debbie Franklin completed the entry form.

She said: "When I received the phone call saying we had won, I nearly woke the neighbours up whooping with delight. It was a fantastic achievement for us and shows how far our company has come since its early beginnings. It could not have gone to more deserving bosses."

The company believes it is possible to run a professional, medium-sized company while making it a fun place to work and with an attitude where staff are not just 'a number'.

The award was presented by Margot Walker, president of The National Pawnbrokers Association, to Pickwick chiefs Nathan Finch and Vincent Way.

MANUFACTURING

Profits click into place for Hornby

MODELMAKER Hornby has seen sales in Europe rise by 50 per cent over the last six months compared with 2010.

The Thanet firm, which makes model railways, Scalextric car-racing kits and Airfix models, said the rise helped pre-tax profits increase by 80 per cent to £959,000.

The result was also helped by a smaller rise in sales in its UK market of 4 per cent.

Hornby said its major suppliers in China had increased output and it had made progress in selling its products in the key German market.

"We are particularly pleased with the progress, albeit from a low base, that we have made in Germany," a Hornby spokesman said.

"Germany is by far the largest model railway market in Europe."

The company said it was also expecting a stronger Christmas period this year, thanks to its new Toy Story product range, while work on a new Star Wars-themed Scalextric set was continuing.

Business Week Live definitely one to put down in 2012 diary

Olga D'Silva, chair of Institute of Directors Kent's international business forum and head of Zên Language, was a speaker at last month's Archant KOS Media's Business Week Live. Here she outlines her thoughts on the event and its future

DOVER Castle is one of my favourite places in Kent, particularly as it is a microcosm of English history. However, I'd never been to Dover Cruise Terminal before, the venue for Business Week Live 2011, so it was wonderful to see the castle from a new and distinct vantage point.

Business Week Live had its own Kent business microcosm, with a cross-section of Kent companies exhibiting, visiting and speaking.

There was a comprehensive workshop programme and a conference programme with a range of speakers.

These included MP Gordon Marsden, who discussed regional regeneration and improving workforce skills.

We also heard from Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston airport, who not only informed delegates about the vastly-increased numbers of air passengers the UK will have by 2050 but also how Kent businesses need to support him to influence the Government's future aviation policy and help ensure the future economic well-being of Kent.

Another speaker was Steve Samson, from Kent County Council's international affairs group, who was joined by Yan Bechet, international commercial manager at HSBC, where we learned more about the support that KCC is providing to the county's businesses to internationalise, as well as economic and financial reasons that more Kent companies should be internationalising.

Tim Allen, managing director of MJ Allen Group, gave an interesting talk and showed how an SME can supply a global company, in this case the giant car-manufacturer Ford.

I was also one of the speakers and represented IoD Kent in my role as chair of the International Business Forum and as head of Zên Languages, which provides foreign-language and cultural communication support to businesses.

I actually alluded to the name Ford in my presentation, talking about Henry Ford as an innovator who said "If I'd listened to my customers, all they said they wanted was a faster horse".



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Olga D'Silva, above right, was highly impressed by her first visit to Business Week Live, where speed-networking, above, proved a big success with many of those attending

I argued that innovation and business success for many of our Kent businesses should not only mean adapting and improving our products and services but also diversifying our markets – which includes internationalising.

This is why I helped to set up IoD Kent's international business forum, sponsored by HSBC, which is held in an open and supportive environment, is led by expert speakers and where peer exchange and learning is encouraged.

IoD Kent's next international business forum is open to IoD members and non-members on Thursday, November 24, in Maidstone, when we shall be exploring the topic 'Export documentation and selecting the right logistics provider'.

Returning to Business Week Live, I really enjoyed talking with a varied range of exhibitors, meeting people for the first time and chatting with some I already knew.



I'm sure you remember that old TV advertising slogan 'It's good to talk', and never was that mantra more true than in business.

Kevin Edmonds, at DMS Graphics, a print and large-format printer, said he was really pleased with the quality leads he had received – and this was also echoed by Emma Ransley of Eastwell Manor Hotel and Spa.

As I left the cruise terminal and took a final look at the magnificence of Dover Castle, I thought about the many positive aspects of my day at Business Week Live and the positive outcomes that will also follow.

I will definitely be making a note in my diary for Business Week Live 2012 and encouraging even more Kent companies to go to Business Week Live 2012.

■ For more information about the IoD, visit www.iod.co.uk/kent

World Cup star highlights importance of teamwork



LEADER: Mike Catt, second right, at the Kent IoD's sporting dinner

RUGBY World Cup-winner Mike Catt joined 120 members of the Institute of Directors Kent at a sporting dinner.

The 40-year-old, who starred in England's last-gasp World Cup final victory over Australia in 2003, was the guest of honour at the Spa Hotel in Tunbridge Wells.

Speaking after dinner, Catt told the audience about the World Cup and that very late Jonny Wilkinson drop-goal.

Having won 75 caps for his country and appearing in three World Cup tournaments, Catt also addressed the directors

about the importance of team management in both sports and business.

David Philpott, Kent IoD chairman, said: "Mike's funny and interesting answers capped a great night, which was one of our best sporting dinners to date."

"This fantastic evening was made possible thanks to the continued support of Clydesdale Bank, who, along with our other marketing partners, have been a huge part of the branch's success for many years."

Former Bath and London

Irish player Catt gave an insight into what it felt like to pull on the white jersey and hear "Swing low, sweet chariots" echoing around Twickenham so many times.

Clydesdale Bank's Adrian Wenn said: "The sporting dinner is an excellent opportunity to bring together like-minded people and look at how we can foster that in our businesses."

"This was the sixth year we have sponsored the IoD sporting dinner and were delighted that Mike was able to join us for the evening."

Music-man Power after centre stage on festival calendar

By Chris Britcher

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WITH the music-festival business if not actually at saturation point then at least on nodding terms with it, trying to launch into an overcrowded and highly-competitive marketplace takes some nerve.

But then Vince Power, a hard-nosed Irish businessman who doesn't give the impression of a man you want to cross, is no doubt the proud owner of balls of stainless steel.

For he is the man behind the Hop Farm Festival – the Paddock Wood music extravaganza that in four short years has elevated itself into an enviable position as a big-hitter on the music scene.

He estimates this summer's show pulled in £20 million to the Kent economy as music fans flocked to see the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Lou Reed and The Eagles.

And with the headliners for the 2012 event set to be unveiled this month, he is confident of repeating the feat again.

Especially as this time around he owns the controlling stake in the event.

Last June he floated his Music Festivals plc on the Alternative Investment Market and raised some £6.5m.

It may have been a little less than many pundits predicted, but it gave him the financial clout required to take over the rights to the Hop Farm Festival and the Benicassim festival in Spain.

Since then, he has overseen the emergence of the Feis event in London's Finsbury Park, picking up the reins from the Fleadh Festival, which Power's Mean Fiddler organisation last staged in 2004.

He has also confirmed that the Phoenix Festival will return to the Midlands next summer for the first time since 1996 – and, it would appear, it doesn't end there.

Power said of the recent flotation: "I had other partners in there, but after the flotation the Hop Farm Festival is now owned by myself and some investment institutions.

"We're a plc and we're in the process of buying more stuff and creating more festivals in and around this country."

Among those rumoured to take place are Pop Farm – a pop-music event to be staged in Eridge Park, near Tunbridge Wells, and a new classical-music festival to be held in the south east.

Not that Power is a stranger to the festival business. His Mean Fiddler empire saw him become one of the most powerful promoters in the music industry during the 1980s and 1990s and he was involved in the likes of the Reading and Glastonbury festivals.

With Glastonbury taking a year off in 2012, the focus will be on ensuring the Hop Farm returns to the black after losses this summer.

"Last year we made money," he said, "but we didn't this year as we spent a lot of money on Prince. I wanted to get him – didn't want to miss



SOUND: Power came up with Hop Farm Festival

the opportunity to get him. We got him quite late in the end and I would have liked a little more, ideally. But we didn't make money last year."

While vowing that he remains fully committed to the Hop Farm event, earlier this year he revealed to music-industry bible Music Week that he had a five-year plan to build his new enterprise and then sell it off for £100m. One of the growth ideas was to replicate what he had done with the Reading and Leeds festivals, and split acts over two sites across two weekends.

That remains to be seen. One thing seems certain, however – and that is that Power has no plans to rest on his laurels.

He concluded: "I've been told I don't have anything to prove, but personally I feel I do. You have to do something in life. I was watching people play golf yesterday while on the train to the Midlands and I thought I couldn't do that."

Which for the golf industry, is probably music to its ears.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Promising teen snaps £1,000 start-up grant

A TEENAGER from Gillingham has become the youngest person to receive a start-up business grant from Medway Council.

Katie Blench, 18, was awarded £1,000 to help get her new business, Katie Blench Photography, off the ground. The young entrepreneur set up the business after work experience with a professional photographer, wanting to turn her hobby into a career.

Working from her family home in Nelson Road, Katie has her own studio with professional lighting and already boasts a portfolio of pet portraits and weddings, to shoots for bands and models.

She said: "Setting up the business wasn't a difficult decision at all. I had several nine-to-five office jobs after leaving college and knew they just weren't for me. I have a genuine passion for photography and love it when people enjoy themselves on my shoots."

The former Chatham Grammar School For Girls pupil completed a foundation degree in photography at North West Kent College in Dartford in June 2010 before applying for the Partners For Growth start-up scheme.

Katie will now put the grant towards a new camera and mobile generator to allow her to take her shoots on location.

She said: "The grant has meant I haven't had to worry about money for a while and being the youngest person to be offered a grant was a great confidence boost in my ability and my business plan. I hope it will mean I can inspire more young people to pursue their dreams."

Kent 10 nominated for top regional tourism awards

TEN of Kent's most popular hot-spots have been short-listed for the 2011 Tourism South East awards.

Mystery visitors have spent months deciding which of the tourist traps should be recommended to appear at the Beautiful South Awards For Excellence, ahead of the prize-giving ceremony next month.

There were more than 100 entries across 16 categories judged on the quality of service on offer to visitors as well as value for money. Other factors included commitment to staff training and development, the environment and accessibility.

Judges also examined websites to consider how well they attracted visitors firstly to the area, and secondly to the individual business.

Tourism South East chief Sue Saville said: "The customer-service benchmark demonstrated by all entrants is exceptional and the short-list selection has proved challenging."

In the guest-accommodation category, Moland House of Canterbury has been short-listed, while in the tourism categories Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre and Chatham's Historic Dockyard are in contention.

In sport, the Joss Bay Surf School and Whitstable's Kent Cycle Hire were flagged up.

Thanet Visitor Information Centre and Town-centre in Gravesend have been short-listed for the tourist-information award.

The Hayloft in Ashford was nominated for the self-catering awards, while the Kent Conference Bureau in Maidstone was nominated in the business-tourism category.

Private business group issues winter warning

A FORUM for businesses has warned companies across Kent to act now to safeguard against possibly-damaging winter weather.

The not-for-profit support group has said small firms should start planning for harsh conditions to avoid being caught out by sudden cold snaps as seen during the previous two winters.

The warning comes after forecasters predicted an end to the unseasonably mild conditions across the UK towards the end of November.

The group believes SMEs can be particularly vulnerable to the impact of freak weather and should start planning ahead by checking their premises are winter-proof, insurance is up to date and contingency plans are well-thought-out in case staff can't get in to work.

Forum For Private Businesses chief Jane Bennett said: "Disruptive snowfall hampers deliveries, triggers heating and power failures and can sometimes mean employees can't get to work."

"The past few winters have demonstrated just how susceptible the UK is to extreme weather, and the cost to business quickly runs into millions. When infrastructure grinds to a halt, staff can't get in to work – and that's a body blow that hits small firms the hardest."

"Something as simple as making sure water pipes are lagged could save a business thousands in lost revenue if it has to close because of flooding."

According to data from YouGov's Omnibus SME survey, 13 per cent of small businesses said they were "seriously impacted" by last winter's bad weather, and 37 per cent said they experienced weather-related problems of some sort.



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The Apprentice gets a makeover

STAFF and students at The Apprentice training restaurant on the Maidstone campus of MidKent College have welcome the first customers to the newly refurbished bar and serving area.

The modern refurbishment is the work of college painting and decorating students Kelly Wheeler, Andrew Reid, Chris Thackeray, Josh Wilkinson and Rachel Hill, led by tutor Ellie Bentley who worked on the design and colour scheme.

The new facilities enhance the intimate atmosphere of the restaurant, giving students the chance to learn in a real work environment where they cook and serve food for customers from all over Maidstone.

Head of faculty, Teresa Murray, said: "It was great to see students from different parts of the college sharing their skills and ideas to modernise our training restaurant. I'm sure our customers will have an even better time enjoying good value and well-cooked fresh food served in nice new surroundings."

Jackie Stone, who leads the hospitality and catering department, said: "We are all looking forward to the Christmas season and are very pleased with the refurbishment."

Business students get best practice

BUSINESS students at the University of Kent will now be able to access the latest in business process best practice, thanks to a link-up with online learning, training and consultancy company the Leading Edge Group.

The collaboration between the University's Kent Business School (KBS) and Ireland-based Leading Edge Group will see new approaches to 'lean thinking' and 'value chain management' integrated as new modules within existing courses.

Professor Andrew Fearn, director of the centre for value chain research at KBS, said: "This is an exciting collaboration with the Leading Edge Group, which specialises in continuous improvement methodologies including lean, Six Sigma and business process re-engineering."

"This agreement demonstrates our continued commitment to provide excellence in education through collaboration with industry."

The university will also validate a credit for the Leading Edge Group's management module.

Apprentices more likely to go into HE

ONE in eight young people with an Advanced Level Apprenticeship (ALA) has gone into higher education, more than double the number previously known, according to new figures from the Centre for Work Based Learning at the University of Greenwich at Medway.

ALAs combine paid on-the-job training with college study to complete a qualification broadly equivalent to A-level.

Following the career paths of every ALA since 2006, researchers Hugh Joslin and Sharon Smith compiled a dossier about more than 150,000 apprentices: who they are, where they come from, the universities they choose and the subjects they study.

They found that

students who enter higher education after completing an ALA are more likely to live in disadvantaged areas than HE students generally, and that more young people than ever before

are successfully completing their ALA, an increase of 36 per cent in the last four years.

The findings were unveiled at a national conference, Apprentices and Progression: Policy, Evidence and Practice, held at the University of Greenwich, in association with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, and the National Apprenticeship Service.

University vice-chancellor Professor David Maguire said: "This is an extraordinary piece of research which shines a light on an important group of students whose abilities, needs and ambitions are not

always fully understood.

"Apprenticeships can be a great way for young people to develop the higher level skills that the nation needs."

"Helping them into higher education demands that universities work in new ways, offering more flexible and part-time courses for example, but our experience indicates this can reap great rewards in terms of realising the potential of a generation of young people."

Mr Joslin said: "The research shows a promising rise in the numbers of apprentices progressing to higher education."

"There is still more to be done however to develop clear work-based learning pathways like

Higher Apprenticeships,

which can provide alternative routes to degrees and the professions."

The university is working with employers and further education colleges to help more apprentices into higher education.

The first cohort of Higher Apprentices started in its school of engineering in 2009. Two further Higher Apprenticeships are in development: one in business and professional administration, and the other in sustainable building with North West Kent College.

This research was funded by HEFCE through the Kent and Medway Lifelong Learning Network.

Funding from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills will allow the project to track the progress of the 2010 cohort of apprentices.



GETTING STARTED: More young people than ever are completing their ALA course

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Two engineering students scoop prestigious scholarships awards

AN engineering student from Orpington has been honoured with a prestigious scholarship from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

The scholarship is part of the IET awards and scholarships programme, which provides £200,000 each year to support young people in their engineering and technology studies.

Thomas Cole, from Orpington, is studying MEng Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

He won an IET Jubilee Scholarship worth £2,000.

Also in the money is Clare Hall, from Ashford, studying MEng (Hons) Engineering Tripos at the University of Cambridge, who won an IET Grants, worth £1,000.

It is awarded to deserving students who are about to start the second, third or final year of an IET-accredited degree programme.

IET awards and prizes manager, Linda Deleay said: "These scholarships are awarded only to the most outstanding candidates and to be in receipt of one of these awards is a particular accolade."

"I would like to congratulate each recipient for the contribution they have made, and will make, to improve the lives of those around us and the world in which we live."

Recipients formally receive their awards and scholarships at the IET ceremony in central London last week.

Young chefs to battle for cooking title

THE live final of the Kent Young Chef Award 2011 came one step closer as three top chefs selected the eight most original recipes featuring seasonal and local produce submitted by Kent secondary school students.

The paper judging for the Produced in Kent inspired competition, took place at Woods Restaurant in Tunbridge Wells.

Woods Restaurant head chef Tommy Ward of, celebrity chef Richard Phillips, and Brian Whiting, managing director of Whiting & Hammond, whittled the entries down to four finalists in the Junior and Senior categories.

Last year's Junior champ, Thomas Perkins, 12, of Holmesdale Technology College, in Snodland will be back for a second year with a brand new recipe – partridge breast with apples, braised red cabbage and a Kent cider and crème fraîche sauce.

The other junior finalists are Charlotte Seaman, 10, of St Saviours C of E Junior School, Westgate-on-Sea; and Ashford School's Phoebe Icke, 11, and Hana Davis, 11.

The Senior finalists are Chatham-based St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School pupil Alice Browning; Elliot Bland, 13, of Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone; Drew Broster aged 14 of Swadlands School, in Lenham; and Jordan Winter, 13, of Weald of Kent Grammar School, Tonbridge.

They will all gather at the restaurant and kitchens at K College Tonbridge on Friday, November 25, for the live final, which will be screened to family and supporters in the restaurant.



RETURNING: Thomas Perkins is competing again

The finalists will be treated to a two-course lunch with the county's movers and shakers and dignitaries, before the winners are crowned Kent Young Chefs of 2011 and receive the prestigious Kent Young Chef Award trophies.

All eight finalists enjoy a host of other prizes including a mini chef work experience day in one of Richard Phillips's three restaurants in the county.

With bumper hampers for the two winners, all eight finalists will also receive a Kent Young Chef Award apron, a framed certificate, and each recipe will be published on the Produced in Kent website at www.producedinkent.co.uk.

Students offered chance to dig deep for quarry conservation cash award

HANSON'S Wrotham quarry near Maidstone is opening its doors to undergraduate and post-graduate students in a new academic research competition.

The Quarry Life Award, launched by Hanson's parent company HeidelbergCement Group, aims to find new ideas for the conservation and promotion of species diversity in quarries and offers a total prize fund of more than £100,000.

The company is inviting students to submit potential projects to be carried out at Wrotham, and five other sites across the country, based around one of four main biodiversity topics.

Selected projects will be judged by a panel of experts and three national winners will be selected to win a cash prize.

The overall UK winner will then be submitted into the global Quarry Life Award with the opportunity to claim the top prize of £27,000.

Martin Crow, head of environment and sustainability at Hanson UK, said: "We have always promoted the protection of biodiversity during and after quarrying at our sites and we hope that the research projects will raise the understanding of the biological value of quarries while providing students with an insight into a possible career path."

More information at www.quarrylifeaward.com.



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Due to the expansion of our Rochester site, BBA-Reman are looking to recruit an **Electrical Technician** to join our successful team. We are a fast growing international automotive remanufacturing company and need highly driven individuals to push the company forward. We can offer you extensive training on the workshop floor, career progression and an annual salary with bonus potential. We are looking for a hard working candidate who is not afraid to get their hands dirty; we will provide them with the practical and theoretical skills needed to become successful. Starting as a Technician you will need a good general knowledge of electronics and be experienced in trouble shooting and thought findings. You will be well versed in using oscilloscopes and multimeters and have general mechanical skills. There will be opportunities to develop within the field of electronics engineering.

Please send CV to
careers@bba-reman.com



SALES DIRECTOR

£55,000 + Car + Bonus

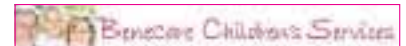
Bucking the trend, GML Construction turnover in 2011 will be up from £8m last year. Already working at senior level, you will have the commercial acumen to negotiate £multi-million contracts within the timber frame and modular buildings market place and excellent contacts among our target customer base of Local Authority, Education and Commercial clients in Kent and South-East England. Based from our fabulous offices in Coxheath, you will be joining a growing business which puts clients and staff first.

Please send your CV by 2nd December to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
01622 742708 www.gmlconstruction.co.uk
GML Construction is an Equal Opportunities employer

The Chequers Inn Head Chef Required

For Country Pub & Restaurant 4 Miles From Canterbury. As Well As Experience You Will Need A Creative Flare And Enthusiasm Salary According To Experience And Qualifications.

Contact Brian 01227 700734



We require the following positions

FOSTERING SERVICES

We are looking for experienced or newly qualified **Social Workers** with Fostering experience to join our organisation. Salary dependent on experience.

Please contact: Stella at Head Office on 01732 740088,
email: headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk

Closing date: 28th November 2011
www.benecareltd.co.uk



The future of local media

Join the award-winning news team behind Kent on Sunday and the Your Local series.

We have vacancies for two senior positions in our newsroom.

Senior news reporter

Candidates must be qualified senior reporters with experience of working in a busy newsroom. You will be required to generate stories for our countywide weekend titles and take responsibility for some of our local websites.

Chief news reporter

The successful candidate will be an experienced senior reporter, or a news editor with a reporting background. You will be required to generate exclusive news stories for our weekend titles and also contribute to our local websites. On occasion you will be expected to deputise for the editor.

Send your CV with a covering letter to
ian.patel@archant.co.uk.

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

John Lewis

Tunbridge Wells - Cleaners

Pay rates are Mon - Sat £6.25ph Sunday £7.25. 3hrs per shift with possible more hours when required to cover Holidays and sickness

Please call The Emprise Group 02075490876 or email sophie.whitelock@emprise.co.uk for further information



Oasis Domestic Abuse Service is currently recruiting for the position of



Administrative Assistant

Please refer to our website at
<http://www.oasiswomensrefuge.org/vacancies.html> for a description of the post and contact details.

We are an Equal Opportunities organisation. This role is exempt under the Equality Act 2010 pursuant to Schedule 9, Part 1. As such we can only consider applications from women



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Salary £30k + neg.

We require an ambitious and experienced accountant to lead a growing team to provide monthly management and annual financial statements for this £20m turnover company.

The successful candidate will be Sage literate and will be able to have a "hands on" approach to the delivery of timely and comprehensive management information. Reporting directly to the Board.

The post will suit a person who wants to be part of the senior management team, taking decisions on the management information rather than just producing it.

All CVs in writing to:
Watts Farms c/o McBrides Accountants LLP,
Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent
DA14 5DA

email: Keith.utton@mcbridesllp.com



Phones 4u Sales Consultant

Competitive Salary plus uncapped commission, bonus and incentives

Location - Bluewater Shopping Centre

A new opportunity has arisen to work within one of our most up to date retail environments where you will be part of a larger team. You will have a passion for people as you will be responsible for building rapport with our customers ensuring you delight them every time. You will enjoy driving sales to hit personal and store targets whilst delivering excellent customer service. Self-motivated, resilient and adaptable to the ever changing needs you'll be serious about succeeding and conscientious; after all you will be an ambassador for Phones 4u.

You'll enjoy real career development opportunities, along with an exciting range of benefits and fantastic incentive schemes.

If you have what it takes we would love to hear from you so apply today on www.phones4ujobs.co.uk



Residential home in Faversham Require A Weekend Domestic

9am – 2pm

For further details telephone:

01795 532629

Between 10am and 4pm

Children's Home- Residential Care Workers

LCS Ltd is recruiting for dynamic and experienced **Residential Care Workers** and **Assistant Managers** in our homes in Kent and Margate.

Ideal candidates (RCW) will have:

- Proven experience, working with young people who display challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties.
- An NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care- Caring for Children and Young People or be willing to work towards.
- Robust, Resilient and Reliable characteristics.
- High motivation, with a good level of flexibility.
- The ability to cope with and remain calm in very challenging and demanding situations.
- Excellent communication skills as you will be liaising with Social Workers, Clinicians, Police, Families, OFSTED and other professionals dealing with Looked After Children.
- A full UK Driving License.

Ideal candidates (Assistant Manager) will have:

- Detailed knowledge of relevant childcare legislation and Care Standards.
- Thorough knowledge of Ofsted Regulations.
- Strong leadership, management and communication skills.
- NVQ 4.

Shift work over 40 hours + 2 sleep-ins per week, therefore a high level of flexibility is required.

In return for your skills and knowledge you will receive a competitive salary, excellent holidays and paid continuous training and development.

All positions are subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. Expense will be met by the employer.

For all enquiries please contact Amanda Manning on 01304 379280.



Montagu Court In Cliftonville require Day & Night Carers

plus Flexi and must have MVQ2 or above.

For more information please

Contact Alan or Allison on **01843 220090**

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Advertise here

**Call 01303
817150**

**www.
kentnews
.co.uk**

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe
zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk

01233 619530

Jacob White (Packaging) Limited

Continued Expansion Means
We need the following personnel:

**Design Engineers
Electrical Design Engineers
Machine Builders/Fitters
Machine and Electrical Panel Wiremen**

Send CV to
**Unit F, Riverside Industrial Estate,
Dartford, DA1 5BY**

Or e-mail: **David@Jacobwhite.com**



Job Ref: 13203

MAKING TOMORROW A BETTER PLACE

Concierge role £16,000 - £16,500 + benefits

As one of the UK's market leaders in FM, Carillion Facilities Management are looking for an individual with customer service experience for a Concierge role working with a major health provider. The position will involve:

Providing a Concierge service across the Tunbridge Wells campus to include control of meeting rooms, Print equipment and reprographic areas, and to proactively identify and act upon service issues that will impact on the performance of Business Services.

- Good interpersonal skills with keen Customer Service ethos and willingness to go the extra mile
- Proactive and creative attitude to problem resolution
- Good personal time management and ability to prioritise tasks and manage Customer Expectations
- Self motivation and keenness to help

Please visit **www.carillionplc.com/careers** and search for Job Ref: 13203



Carers' Support - Dover District & Thanet Post: 2 Project Workers

**Starting salary £17,574 per annum
37.5 hrs per week**

One year fixed term

(possibility to extend subject to longer-term funding)

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend; we are partly funded by Social Services and The Primary Care Trust.

Project Worker: We are looking for a confident, versatile, sensitive and articulate person who will work with us to support Carers and to develop and deliver new services across the locality. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre. You will also liaise with other agencies, make and take referrals, facilitate, develop and organise support groups, services and events.

This position is mainly office based, however you will be required to travel outside the office to attend meetings, complete one to one Carer's Assessments in clients' homes, to deliver our outreach services, and represent the organisation at external events. A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

For an application pack, please write to:

Tricia Cole CEO

**Carers' Support - Dover District & Thanet
10 Victoria Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7AP**
or email: **tricia@carers-doverdistrict.org**

Closing date: **For returned applications by Thursday 1st December**

Registered Charity No.1136904

Co Ltd by Guarantee no.7213672

KM CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2011 FOR THE DOVER DISTRICT



ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR

MTS Cleansing Services Limited currently has a full time vacancy to join our Head Office depot based in Hoo, Rochester.

Working 37 ½ hours per week, Hours 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Working as part of a team, duties will include, purchase and sales ledger, credit control, banking, processing credit card payments, accounts and telephone enquiries. Ideally suited to an individual who possess strong sales ledger and purchase ledger skills.

It is essential the applicant has proven experience in a similar role and has excellent oral and written skills as well as being proficient in Microsoft office programs and SAGE 500. Full driving licence with own transport is also essential due to the location.

To apply please email a covering letter and CV to:-

HR@mtscleansing.co.uk or call 01634-257125 for more information.

Ground Workers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, Passport & visa must be provided.

Call 01277 810777

Drain Layers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, passport & visa must be provided.

Call 01277 810777

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BRADFORD

Francesca Louise born on 3rd November 2011
To proud parents
Matthew and Alison.
Baby sister for
Ruby Jean.

FLISHER

Ian and Claire of
Folkestone celebrate
the birth of their son,
Luke Anthony Alan.
Born on 25th October
2011 weighing 7lb 10oz.
A little brother for
proud big sister Katie

HOOPER

Katy and Simon of
Broadstairs are
delighted to announce
the birth of their son
Archie William Hooper,
born on 16th October
2011 at The Queen
Elizabeth The Queen
Mother Hospital,
Margate. A brother
for Harry.

ROSE

Darren and Katie are
delighted to announce
the birth of Madeline
Florence Autumn Rose
who was born on 23rd
October 2011.
Madeline is a baby
sister for Joshua
and Isabelle.

RYDER

Rose Sandra Ryder
born on 29th October
2011 weighing 8lbs 3oz.
To our beautiful
little girl, welcome to
the world and may all
your dreams come true.
Love Mum and Dad,
Charles and Sharlene.
x x x

TOWNSON

Cara and Simon of
Herne Bay are
delighted to announce
the birth of their son
Flynn Benjamin Arthur
Townson, born on 10th

October 2011 at QEQM
Hospital, weighing 8lb
6oz. A brother to Jacob,
Kain and Luke.

WYLD

Rebecca and
Christopher Wyld
celebrate the birth of
their daughter Sofia
May Wyld on
4th November 2011,
weighing 8lbs 7oz.

DEATHS

GAFFNEY

Thomas Anthony
Gaffney on 8th
November 2011, aged
86. Dearly loved
husband of Veronica,
father of Peter and
Ann, grandfather of
Kelly, Natalie and
James. Funeral service
at St Anselms Catholic
Church at 10.00am on
Friday 2nd December
2011. Flowers and

enquiries to Lewis
Solomon, 19 Darnley
Road, Gravesend DA11
0RZ. 01474 352261.

HOWARD

Christian Howard of St
Peters died peacefully
on 7th November 2011.
Funeral Service at
Thanet Crematorium at
12.40 pm on 23rd
November.

SHARPE

Elena Sharpe,
Daughter in law of
Miriam Sharpe, former
Sheriff of Canterbury
passed away on 24th
October 2011, fell
asleep peacefully aged
87. Forever in our
hearts and minds - her
family and friends will
always remember her
for her fun and
laughter



Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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Westlands Academies Trust



WESTLANDS NURSERY

Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Early Years Practitioner (NVQ 3 preferred)

Required to start: 4 January 2012

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support these young pupils to develop their skills and achieve their early learning goals

24.5 hours a week, term time only.

(Mon, Wed & Fri 9:00 - 3:30 pm; Tue 12:30 - 3:30 pm; Thu 9:00 - 12:30 pm)

Salary according to experience - £6.08 - £8.00 per hour

You are welcome to contact Melissa Prince (01795 430629) for a preliminary discussion or visit, if desired. Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Primary School (Mrs Pollard) or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications - Friday, 2/12/11; Interviews - Wednesday, 7/12/11

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886

Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk

www.westlands.org.uk

Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons
Manager of Nursery: Mrs Melissa Prince

Westlands Academies Trust
Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF
Company No 7344732



DOVER ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dover Road East, Northfleet, Kent DA11 0RB

The school is seeking to appoint an IT Technician to work 30 hours per week (8.30am to 3.30 pm) during term time. The contract will be paid on Kent Range 5 (£16,794) pro rata.

The suitable candidate must be equipped to actively guide and support class teachers in the planning and use of IT to enhance pupils learning and during lessons be able to work alongside children in classrooms. The applicant must have a minimum of three years' experience in an IT environment with knowledge of an RM network and school's chosen software packages in order to maintain the system to ensure the Internet and all software is available as a teaching tool.

The school is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to obtaining a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. The closing date for applications is 30 November 2011, and interviews will be on 7 December 2011.

To obtain an application form and job description, please contact the school on 01474 352488 or email office@dover-road.kent.sch.uk alternatively apply via

Kent-teach.com

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

LECTURER IN HAIRDRESSING

FIXED TERM UNTIL 25TH MARCH 2013

Thanet College is looking to recruit a lecturer to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Hair and Beauty curriculum.

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year

Closing date: Wednesday 30th November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination

Westlands Academies Trust



Westlands School PART TIME CATERING ASSISTANT

To work in a busy school kitchen

Required to cover Maternity Leave

10 hours per week (12 - 2pm) 39 weeks per year

Hourly rate: £6.68 - £7.30

Food preparation/cooking experience and a basic food hygiene certificate preferred, but if you have a positive attitude, good practical skills and are willing to work, we will teach you.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 30 November 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies
Trust Company No 7344732



Westlands Academies Trust



WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XN

Teaching Assistant

Required Immediately

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various learning difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis.

30 hours a week, term time only.

£12,903 - £15,984 (pro rata)

(equal to £8,627 - £10,687 depending on experience)

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications - Monday, 5/12/11; Interviews - Friday, 9/12/11.

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886

Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons

Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF
Company No 7344732



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LECTURER IN MOTOR VEHICLE

ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED MECHANIC WHO IS LOOKING TO MOVE IN TO TEACHING?

Thanet College is looking to recruit a lecturer to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Engineering and Computing curriculum.

Previous lecturing experience and a teaching qualification are preferable but not essential.

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year

INVIGILATORS

£7.69 PER HOUR

We are looking for a number of Invigilators for examinations throughout the year, (although mainly in May and June) at Thanet College and our other sites within Thanet.

Closing date: 23 November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**




THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LECTURER IN BEAUTY THERAPY AND MAKE UP

&

LECTURER IN BEAUTY THERAPY AND NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Thanet College is looking to recruit two lecturers to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Hair and Beauty curriculum.

Salary Scale: £12,799 - £15,103 for 18.5 hours per week all year

Closing date: Wednesday 30th November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**




INVIGILATORS REQUIRED

Do you like to follow the rules?

- The Marlowe Academy is looking to recruit a team of invigilators who will be employed for external examinations taking place at the school; the current exam seasons are November, January, March and May - June.
- We would like Invigilators to have an excellent standard of literacy and numeracy; they should be conscientious, punctual, observant and accurate, whilst remaining calm at all times. A sense of humour helps too!
- The rate of pay offered is £7.40 per hour and this includes time spent on training.
- Successful applicants will need to be CRB checked.

Please apply by email or in writing to the Exams Officer:

Mrs P Cox
The Marlowe Academy
Stirling Way
Ramsgate
CT12 6NB

Email: patricia.cox@marloweacademy.co.uk

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team on

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Clever Clowns Nursery
Howard de Walden Community Centre, Bluett Street, Maidstone

Has a vacancy for a
DEPUTY MANAGER

From January 2012, Term Time only, 4/5 morning sessions per week
Qualifications required: NVQ 3 in Childcare or equivalent

Please ring Sue on **0845 2300 695**
For Job Description and Application Form
Closing Date 30/11/11

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this section

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HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

COOPER'S LANE, SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cooper's Lane, Smeeht, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 2 months or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the road will be re-opened over the Christmas period.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A20 Main Road (Ashford Road) and Stone Hill.

B2080 TENTERDEN ROAD & THE STREET, APPLEDORE
(30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during water mains renewal works, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the B2080 Tenterden Road & The Street, Appledore, on or after 21 November 2011 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

This affects the A2080 Tenterden Road from the junction with School Road / Ferry Road eastwards to the junction with The Street, and on The Street from this junction southwards to the existing 30 / 40 mph speed limit sign.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE STREET, FINGLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Finglesham, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Broad Lane and Marley Lane.

The alternative route is via Broad Lane and Marley Lane.

UPPER STRAND STREET, SANDWICH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Upper Strand Street, Sandwich, on or after 6 December 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned that these works will be carried out between the hours of 7.30 am until 4.00 pm day, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Fisher Street and Knightrider Street.

The alternative route is via High Street, The Quay and Knightrider Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 5A) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under sections 1(1) , 2(1) to (3) 3(2) , 4(1) and (2) , 32(1), 35(1) , 45, 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

- The locations subject to Waiting Restrictions are:

Roads in Ash in the District of Dover:

HOLNESS ROAD / MOLLAND LEA
SANDWICH ROAD / CHERRY GARDEN LANE
PUDDING LANE

Roads in Capel-le-Ferne in the District of Dover:

GREEN LANE / CAPEL STREET

Roads in Deal in the District of Dover:

BOWLING GREEN LANE
BRUCE CLOSE / MANOR ROAD
FIVEWAYS RISE
CROSS ROAD / ST. RICHARD'S ROAD / MILL HILL
HAWKSDOWN / WHITE ACRE DRIVE
HAYWARD CLOSE
MILL ROAD
SHOLDEN BANK / MONGEHAM ROAD

Roads in the District of Dover:

AVENUE ROAD / BEACONSFIELD AVENUE
BEAUFOY ROAD / ST RADIGUND'S ROAD
CHARLTON GREEN / BEACONSFIELD AVENUE
CHURCHILL ROAD / MAXTON ROAD
DICKSON ROAD
DICKSON ROAD (MINOR SIDE RD) / DICKSON ROAD
EATON ROAD / KITCHENER ROAD
GLOSTER ROPEWALK / GLOSTER WAY
OLD CHARLTON ROAD
ST DAVID'S AVENUE / ST GILES AVENUE

Roads in River in the District of Dover:

CRABBLE ROAD / MILL RACE
CRABBLE ROAD

Roads in Sandwich in the District of Dover:

ASH ROAD
DOVER ROAD / ST BARTHOLOMEW'S
STONAR ROAD / RAMSGATE ROAD
WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD / "SANDWICH LEISURE PARK" ENTRANCE
WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD / "ROPE WALK" FOOTPATH

Roads in Temple Ewell in the District of Dover:

TARGET FIRS / TARGET FIRS

Roads in Walmer in the District of Dover:

A258 DOVER ROAD

- The locations subject to changes to the School Keep Clear markings are:

Roads in St Margaret's-at-Cliffe in the District of Dover:

SEA STREET

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent and at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

CRETE HALL ROAD, NORTHFLEET -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use of the Riverside Footpath from the Red Lion Public House, Crete Hall Road to the Old Sun Public House at the junction with The Shore, Northfleet.

The Order will become effective on 21st November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 12 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Crete Hall Road, Footway

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Demolition of Structure bordering the Footpath.

D390 DABBS PLACE, COBHAM-
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Dabbs Place, Cobham from its junctions with Jeskyns Road and Round Street.

The Order will become effective on 21st November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and to last 7 days - daytime closure only. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Henhurst Road and Church Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Tree care works.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ST MARKS AVENUE, NORTHFLEET) (ONE WAY)
ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. The effect of the Order will prohibit any vehicle (except emergency services) from travelling south to north on St Mark's Avenue, Northfleet, from the junction with Cremorne Road to the junction with London Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Gravesham, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SANDWAY, BOUGHTON MALHERBE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandway from Boughton Road running south for approximately 150m on or after Monday 5th December 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Boughton Road, Lenham Heath Road, Bowley Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new telegraph pole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Louise Skull on 0370 0500792.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

HILDERS LANE, EDENBRIDGE - (TEMPORARY
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hilders Lane for a 5m Section outside Ashcombe Cottage.

The Order will become effective on 4th December 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 05 December 2011 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Main Road, Station Road, Stangrove Road, Crouch House Road, Little Browns Lane and vice versa.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road excavation and repair defective drainage pipe work within carriageway, backfill and reinstate.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

HARTY FERRY ROAD, OARE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of filming on the highway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to close Harty Ferry Road, Oare and Public Footpath ZR234 on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 2 days, between 7.00 am and 9.00 pm.

HARTY FERRY ROAD will be closed to the north of Harty Ferry Cottages.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR234 will be closed from the junction with Harty Ferry Road as follows

Westwards for a distance of approximately 310 metres to National Grid Reference TR 010 649

Eastwards for a distance of approximately 215 metres to National Grid reference TR 014 646.

There is no alternative route for the Footpath closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ALBERT STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has intends to make Order prohibiting through traffic on Albert Street, Ramsgate, on or after 5 December 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 41 to 57.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Addington Street and Hertford Street.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Hertford Street.

It is planned that the road will be re-opened during the Christmas period.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A26 QUARRY HILL ROAD, TONBRIDGE)
(PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by northbound traffic on A26 Quarry Hill Road at the A21 viaduct on or after Monday 5th December 2011 for a period of up to 6 nights between 20.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via the A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road.

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for the Highways Agency apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to investigate half joints and drainage on the viaduct. For further information or comment please call Nithiy Myuran on 0203 4332128.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DISLINBURY ROAD (HALF MOON LANE), CAPEL)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dislingbury Road from Pembury Road to Amherst Bank Road on or after Monday 21st November 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

The alternative route is via Pembury Road, Pembury Hall Road, Old Church Road, Redwings Lane, Amherst Bank Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install new gullies. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Emma Philpott on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FORGE ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
(SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Forge Road, Southborough from A26 London Road to Norton Road on or after Monday 21st November 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed. The one way order on Forge Road is temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access.

The alternative route is via Western Road, Norton Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 20th November 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



MARRIAGE LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named One with Grace Centre, Part A, Hollands Farm, Hawley Road, Hawley, Dartford in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 24 May 2011 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section 1 (1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act, 1958. In lieu of One with Grace Centre, 189 Wilmington Road, Wilmington, Dartford now disused and the registration cancelled thereof.

Superintendent Registrar
20 June 2011

To place your
notice here, call the
Kent Public Notice
team on

01303
817044

PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01722/VAR: 110 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DZ Variation of conditions 9, 10 and 11 of planning permission CA/07/01671/WHI relating to the internal layout and seating areas including use of the rear garden, the kitchen equipment and opening hours. **Applicant: Mr Ellis** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01737/CAC: Land between 274 and 288 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3TY Demolition of lean-to and shed. **Applicant: Chartway Group** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA/11/01757/FUL: 6 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NW Addition of roof light to front elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms K Sharp** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01812/FUL: 11-12 and 14C Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HG Change of use of part of first-floor (No 12) to commercial use in association with the ground floor bar/restaurant and single-storey extension to rear of No 12. Reconfiguration of the upper floors to create three flats and alterations to the existing dwelling (No 14C). **Applicant: Dean and Chapter, Canterbury Cathedral** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01813/LB: 11-12 and 14C Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HG Internal and external alterations to 11-12 Burgate incorporating single-storey extension to the rear of No 12. **Applicant: Dean and Chapter, Canterbury Cathedral** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/11/01840/FUL: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Erection of two-storey side extension **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pack** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01841/LB: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Erection of two-storey side extension **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pack** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/11/01844/FUL: 43 Spenser Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QP Erection of a two-storey side extension and conservatory to rear. **Applicant: Mr R Murray Smith** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01847/FUL: 32 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1EA Replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Bennett** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01851/FUL: 37 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UH Alterations to first-floor of garage for use as a home office. **Applicant: Mr John MacKinnon** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/11/01853/FUL: Mulberry Cottage, The Street, Patricbourne, Bekebourne, CT4 5BZ Two and single-storey extensions to SE elevation, single-storey extension to provide garden room to NW elevation and single-storey extension to NE elevation. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of two detached outbuildings to provide a double garage studio and store and a gym. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs August** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01856/FUL: Tudor Lodge, Polo Way, Chestfield, CT5 3LA Realignment of 1.8m high timber fence and gate. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr Ord** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01858/FUL: 1 De L'Angle Row, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7JP Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Stewart** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01863/LB: 84 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5LA New front window. **Applicant: Mr W McGuinness** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/11/01870/FUL: Clovelly, 29 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, CT2 9EE Demolition of existing side extension and construction of new dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Grimes** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01871/CAC: Clovelly, 29 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, CT2 9EE Demolition of existing side extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Grimes** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA/11/01873/CAC: 10 Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PE Demolition of shop. **Applicant: The Swallow Group** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA/11/01896/TAM: Fleets Lane s/o 1 St John's Crescent, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NB Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before Monday 12 December 2011.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 18 November 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL IS ASKING FOR
VIEWS ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

In line with the School Admissions Code, Kent County Council is formally consulting admissions authorities, diocesan boards, parent groups and parent/guardians of children aged between two and 16 who live in Kent.

They are being asked about the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Kent for the 2013/14 school year.

The Local Authority consultation runs from **15 November 2011** and the closing date will be **13 January 2012**.

The above groups are invited to view the admissions arrangements at:

www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions

A link to an online response form is also available on the KCC website.

If you do not have access to the internet you may request a printed copy of the proposed arrangements and a response form from:

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Admissions & Transport
Rm 2.24 Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Every academy, foundation and voluntary aided school is also required to consult the above groups on their proposed admission arrangements if they are making amendments. Where provided, the admissions policies for these schools will also be posted on the KCC website at the above link. They will also be available from the school. Any responses to the consultation on admission arrangements for academy, foundation or voluntary aided schools should be sent to the Chair of Governors for the relevant school, by their closing date, which must be no later than 1 March 2012.

If you require any further information on the consultation process please telephone Craig Chapman - Scheme Coordination Manager - on 01622 696789



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**THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications**

MA/11/1819/N - 1, LOWER STREET COTTAGES, LOWER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RR - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and alterations to hardsurfacing to frontage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1837/N - HSBC, 1, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QW - Application for listed building consent for removal of basement vault and associated works. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1849/S - SPRING BANK, RECTORY LANE, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BT - Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission MA/09/0592 (erection of a part two storey, part single storey side extension) in order to extend the time limit for implementations. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **4th December 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 20th November 2011



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION**

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/SW/0410/2011 - Proposed development at
Tunstall C E (Aided) School, Tunstall Road, Tunstall,
Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DX.**

The Governors of Tunstall CE Primary School are applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for retention of single and double mobile classroom buildings and temporary PTA store. The proposed development is within the Tunstall Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
REGULATIONS 2011**

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 24
OF DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION
FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**DA/11/1043 - Proposed development at
Pinden Quarry, Green Street Green Road,
Dartford, Kent, DA2 8EB.**

I give notice that on 8 November 2011 Kent County Council granted planning permission for the variation of conditions 5, 6 and 16 of planning permission DA/07/1 (as amended) [i.e. the consolidation of planning permission, northern extension of Pinden Quarry and exchange of the proposed northern extension for the existing and permitted westerly extension] to allow modifications to phasing and soil storage arrangements and to increase the depth of excavation and resultant landfill on part of the northern extension at Pinden Quarry, Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent (Planning reference: DA/11/1043).

You may view copies of the application and the environmental statement, the committee report and the planning permission at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR or at the offices of the Planning Applications Group, Planning & Environment Division, Enterprise & Environment Directorate, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 20th November 2011





This party season is just the right time to show that you're gorgeous

SEE PAGES 48-49



RED WAVE

It's time for the ever-fantastic Quexmas fair

SEE PAGE 50

Kent Weekend

The power of music

How one young man overcame a horrifying experience to forge a promising career

SEE PAGE 45



PLUS: Getting lost has never been this rewarding - **food and drink p47**
Make the most of opportunities in the property market - **why to buy p55**
Family driving is a whole lot more fun thanks to the Astra - **driving p67**

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Aqua designs bespoke bathrooms to suit your needs and desires. They also undertake full refurbishments, from electrics to painting, carpentry to roofing - both domestic and commercial. Their callout area covers the whole of Kent and around the M25. Even if you have a holiday home in France, Cornwall, Ireland etc. they will still undertake the works.

Please visit their showroom to see the displays for yourself along with plenty of choice in products ranging from electric showers (starting from £55 and 2 year guarantee) to Steel baths (starting from £80).

Opening hours are 8am-5pm Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday, and 9am-3pm Sunday. However, evening appointments can be arranged up to 8pm any day of the week.

24hr emergency callout available.

For carpentry / plumbing or if you have been let down and work needs to be finished promptly please give them a call to see if they can help.

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THE INTERVIEW

Henry Johnson

Shocking event gave singer his true voice

Joe Bill meets a former Canterbury Cathedral choirboy who has used a horrific incident as the platform to build a promising career in music

FORMER choirboy Henry Johnson had what he describes as a perfect childhood. "I was very lucky," he said. "I was very privileged. I went to nice schools and you could say that I lived in a bit of a bubble. My parents had always been hugely protective over me – very caring people."

But Henry's life was changed forever by a shocking family incident that would go some way to shaping his immediate future. The 24-year-old from Ramsgate, who is now the focus of a Channel Four documentary as well as an aspiring singer-songwriter, said: "My father suffered a psychological breakdown. No one saw it coming. He was a really gentle man – my parents barely argued or anything. He had never done anything like this before."

"One day I came home from school and heard commotion downstairs. Mum was on the garden path and my dad thought he had killed her. He had brutalised her. Her skull was fractured in several places."

"The documentary is about the aftermath of that. It was very strange and there were unique proceedings after that. My father went to prison and my mum recovered. But then she decided that she still needed him in her life."

"The film is about how our family have tried to revert back to how we used to live, without dealing with what happened."

"I wasn't really considered when my dad came back into the family and I have been toeing the line ever since. It is all about talking about what is not being said."

Henry, who grew up in Kent and attended schools in Canterbury and Ramsgate, had a friend in contact with a producer in London looking to make documentaries about stories of inspiring resilience in young people.

He said: "My friend knew about my family and suggested I meet the producer. I was quite sceptical about the whole thing as I am not the most trusting person and fly-on-the-wall documentaries can be sensationalised and designed to shock."

"But I got to know her and was able to talk to her about things I have not said to anyone."

The documentary, *We Need To Talk About Dad*, will be aired on Channel Four on Monday, November 21, at 10.30pm.

The incident with his father also inspired Henry to adopt a career in music, something that is starting to bear fruit after he was scouted playing live in Ramsgate's Belgian Bar by a Sony BMG producer.

Music has always been a big part of Henry's life, as he explained: "I started as a choirboy



6699

The film is about how our family tried to revert back to how we used to live, without dealing with what happened

JOHNSON, ON CHANNEL FOUR DOCUMENTARY

with Canterbury Cathedral Choir and that was a fiercely-disciplined musical upbringing. I was touring by the age of 10, performing in America and Canada, throughout Europe, at the Royal Albert Hall and on television."

"I dabbled with a lot of instruments while I was there. When I left, I started to write on guitar and broke away from my classical side."

"I went through a rebellious phase of going busking, skateboarding and smoking a lot."

"Then the whole crisis happened and it gave me my muse. It was all very natural."

"I started to write about the dilemmas I was confronted with. It was in an ambiguous way rather than a 'poor me' type of thing."

"I was heard playing in a bar by a Sony BMG producer in Ramsgate. He said he wanted to fly me out to a studio in France and I recorded the first sketches of my songs."

It was then that Henry realised a music career was for him. Now with a healthy fan base, he is making friends in high places.

"I had James Morrison sit in on one of my sessions in London and he was loving what I was doing."

"There was Gus Robertson, from Razorlight, and he has come down to Ramsgate to work with me. I am not signed yet, but it is looking promising and I am getting a lot of interest at the moment."

This summer, Henry opened for Ed Sheeran and Badly Drawn Boy at the Magic Loungeabout Festival and he has an EP with a mix of his songs as a free download.

He said: "There is a Spanish-influenced song on there as well as a jazz-swing-style song. I am interested in making different genres work and tying them into my sound."

■ **Henry Johnson's music is available at www.henryjohnsonmusic.com**



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From vineyards to windmills, this delightful walk shows the county in its splendour

SPECTACULAR views across rolling landscapes, restored windmills and thriving vineyards await you on this idyllic circular walk.

Starting at Camer Park, 45 acres of beautiful, mature parkland situated in an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this walk is a delight for visitors.

Camer Park came into existence when the estate was sold to Strood Rural District Council in 1967 for £9,750 after the passing of its last owner; it was converted into the park we know today in 1971.

From here the walk passes close by Meopham Valley Vineyard, which is a two-hectare site growing a wide range of grapes that produce English white, red, rosé and sparkling wines.

The cultivation of vines to produce wine in Kent dates back to Roman



times. It is understood that in the 13th century the Archbishop of Canterbury owned one of the biggest winemaking operations of the Middle Ages.

As you pass through Meopham Green, take a moment to admire the newly-restored Killick's Windmill, built in 1801 by James Killick, a millwright from Strood.

This smock mill was built as a

'model' mill to demonstrate milling and was consequently very well constructed. It is a Grade II-listed building and is looked after by the Meopham Mill Trust.

Heading towards the village of Meopham, there are spectacular views across the rolling landscape of the downs. Spend some time exploring the village, which has earned a reputation as the longest



village in Kent as a result of its distinctive linear development.

While in the village, why not stop and take on well-earned refreshments before continuing on your walk?

The Long Hop is a well-known public house overlooking the village green. This is a great place to while away an hour or so enjoying a rest.

In the summer months, the popular cricket ground is often

FACT FILE

- **Location:** Camer Park, Meopham, Kent DA13 0XT
 - **Distance:** 4.7 miles (7.5km)
 - **Time:** Two hours approx
 - **Terrain:** Grassy paths, surfaced tracks and some road walking
 - **Steps:** Approx 9,500
 - **Parking:** Parking available at Camer Park
 - **Refreshments/facilities:** Cafés and pubs in the village
 - **OS Explorer Map:** 148
- Find more great walks at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or alternatively you can follow @explorekent on Twitter

teeming with supporters of the sport.

Local attractions

If you want to make a day of it, why not plan your day in advance? Book a tour of the Meopham Valley Vineyard and sample the excellent wines. Meopham wines have done extremely well in local and national competitions and have won numerous awards.

Alternatively, visits to Killick's Windmill can be made in the summer months by arrangement with the parish council.

EXPLORE KENT is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast. Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or phone 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

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Chance discovery finds this Tiger burning bright off the beaten track

GETTING lost is, generally speaking, rubbish.

Despite what some would-be explorers will tell you, if you don't end up in the place you're aiming for, then you're going to be a bit fed up.

And while the fairly recent invention of the sat-nav has made it a lot more difficult to go astray these days, it does still happen more often than we'd like it to.

Case in point: during the summer a friend of mine asked if I could play cricket for his team against a side based in the tiny village of Stowting, near Ashford. He gave me the postcode but, of course, it was wrong and I ended up a good mile from where I was supposed to be.

However, on this occasion my getting lost turned out to be a good thing as the postcode with which I had been provided was actually for the ferociously-named Tiger Inn.

When I informed him of his mistake later, he apologised but said I should consider having dinner at the inn one day... which I did.

Far from being a 'local pub for local people', the Tiger is a warm and friendly place where non-villagers are made to feel more than welcome. But given how remote a place Stowting is, that's an absolute must from a business standpoint.

My guest and I were shown to our table by one of several polite members of staff, but we were disappointed to learn we would soon have to get

RESTAURANT REVIEW



back up again to select our food. That's because instead of having menus, the Tiger has all its dishes written on a giant blackboard in the bar area.

As well as being a bit of a pain for those ordering, I can't imagine it's much fun for the people sitting directly beneath the blackboard, who must feel like they're being constantly stared at throughout the evening.

Happily, the high quality of the food made up for the less-than-ideal ordering arrangements.

Deciding to skip starters, I selected a main course of a free-range, slowly-roasted pork belly

on creamed spring leeks and bacon, with buttered confit potato and Bramley apple puree (£14.95).

It was clear from this dish that the kitchen staff took great pride in their work as everything was cooked to perfection. The pork was deliciously tender and came complete with crackling which, while almost impossible to break up, was an excellent accompaniment.

My guest opted for the rack of Romney Marsh lamb on a courgette Provençale with sweet potato Dauphinoise, real mint jelly and a red-currant jus (£15.95) and was equally delighted with her selection.

For dessert we both had a banoffee pie with cream (£5.50) which, while truly scrumptious, was also very rich. It's not often I'd complain about having too much food on my plate, but on this occasion I just could not finish the pudding placed before me.

The total cost, including drinks, was £49.40.

While you may need to get lost in the country to find the place, The Tiger Inn is well worth discovering.

Steve Knight

■ The Tiger Inn
Stowting, Ashford TN25 6BA
Telephone: 01303 862 130

FARMERS' MARKETS

WHITFIELD: Held on Thursdays from 9am to noon in the village hall, some 200-300 customers visit each week. There is fresh local fish and seafood, vegetables and fruit from local farmers, as well as eggs laid at a local RSPCA Freedom Farm.

STANSTED: Stansted farmers' market, held in the village hall on the first Thursday of every month, was conceived as an alternative to opening a village shop. It offers a variety of goods, including meats, vegetables and cheeses. Bread, cakes, hand-made chocolates, jams and homemade cakes are also on sale.

ROLVENDEN: Established in 2000, it is run by volunteers and is non-profit-making, with stall fees kept to a minimum. It takes place every Thursday from 10am to noon in the new village hall and St Mary's Church opposite; it has 20-30 stalls.

BROMLEY: Situated in the busy pedestrian area of Bromley high street between the Churchill Theatre and Elmfield Road, this popular farmers' market is combined with an arts-and-craft market and is open every Friday and Saturday from 9am-5pm.

CHALLOCK: Challock farmers' market is open from 1pm-4pm on the first and third Fridays of every month and offers a selection of locally-produced fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, fresh meat, fish, bread, cakes, pies, jams and pickles. Also one stall sells village gardeners' produce.

WYE: This farmers' market has been providing its community with delicious, fresh, locally-produced food for more than 10 years. A variety of stalls sells fresh bread, jams and chutneys as well as locally-produced organic meats, fresh fish and cheeses.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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YOU'RE GORGEOUS



Show off your beauty in style when

THE Christmas party season is just round the corner and you'll want to be looking and feeling your very best for those great nights out with family and friends – and don't forget the all-important office do.

The right pair of shoes can make or break an outfit – but you'll need to choose carefully if you want to be dancing the whole night through. Whether you favour pumps or

stiletto heels, there is a huge range on the high street – and you know you can't wait to flex the credit card and make a particular favourite your very own.

Then there is your crowning glory – how about a new hair tint and style that will get people talking and wondering what has put such a



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you dress to impress this party season



spring in your step and a sparkle in your eyes? Now is also the time to get your clothes sorted out so that you'll not be left with nothing to wear on that special party day.

Stores across the country are fully kitted out with their ranges and styles for the festive season, and while it might be cold outside that's no excuse for the winter blues when it comes to selecting your wardrobe.

After all – you do want to be the belle of the ball, don't you?

For the family Christmas dinner, how about a sequin shift dress worn over a black polo neck? Try a patent leather belt, which helps give this outfit a more contemporary edge.

Now what about a night on the town? Think bright colours – a rich claret, deep purple or sapphire blue that makes a statement and will certainly turn heads.

Jewellery and accessories can add the final touch and make your fashion statement truly your own. Individualism works wonders when you want to stand out from the crowd and make a splash at this season's celebrations.

Then there's your body to consider. The combination of the cold, harsh winter weather and centrally-heated homes can



play havoc with skin and some extra attention may be required on dry patches, particularly around the nose, and lips.

Also use a gentle skin-exfoliator applied a couple of times per week to keep it fresh. If you can, treat yourself to a rejuvenating or deep-cleansing facial which will give your complexion a boost.

Alternatively, use a face mask while relaxing in a hot bath to draw out impurities.

In the shower preparing for yet another party, turn the temperature to cold for one minute before you get out. This will help boost circulation and give you an instant awakening.

Fake tan is not just for summer. You might be covered up during the day, but dull, pasty winter skin will not look good in a little party dress.

Exfoliate skin regularly, keep well moisturised and apply fake tan once a week.

Have a great party season!

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Lioness Rutu is in from Spain Breeding plan

Port Lympne, near Hythe
Open 9.30am-5pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

A CRITICALLY-endangered Barbary lioness is the latest arrival at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Rutu was flown in from Madrid and the big-cat-keepers hope

that as she becomes more confident in her surroundings she will eventually become a mate for Milo – a male Barbary lion already at Port Lympne. Animal director Adrian Harland said: "Rutu seems to be settling in very well and it is hoped that we can put her and Milo together in the near future." Barbary or Atlas lions have been extinct in the wild since the 1920s. However, the King of Morocco kept lions in the royal menagerie until the 1970s, when they were transferred to Rabat zoo as part of a breeding programme.

Festive meals Eat in historic surroundings

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Christmas season only
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

TRADITIONAL Christmas meals are being served in two unique venues at Chatham's Historic Dockyard this season. Both the Commissioner's House, built in 1704 as the home of the Resident Commissioner, and the Wheelwrights' Restaurant, where wheels for the dockyard carts were made, will host seasonal dinners. Guests will enjoy a Kentish reception with a glass of Chapel Down sparkling wine while a solo soprano entertains, followed by a sumptuous four-course dinner for £42.50 per person. Dates are available throughout December and advance booking is required. If lunchtime is more convenient, Wheelwrights' Restaurant is the place to be for a carvery-style Christmas meal between midday and 3pm. Two courses cost just £12 per person.



A very merry Quexmas Craft fair in museum

Quex Park, Birchington
Sunday, November 27, 11am-5pm
01843 842168
www.quexmuseum.org

ONCE again, as part of the Birchington Village Christmas Weekend, staff at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park invite you to join them for their annual Quexmas Craft Fair. Based on the success of last year's popular event, this Christmas promises to be even better, with more stall-holders from all over Kent selling a range of quality festive gifts ideal for that all-important Christmas stocking... they could make all the difference. Visit Santa in his grotto and enjoy performances by the choir of Birchington primary school and the Quexmas Singers. Admission is just £2 per adult, which will include entry into the prize draw.

Santa is here! Magic cottage for the month

Alfriston, East Sussex
December 3-23
01323 874100
www.drussillas.co.uk

DASHING into Drussillas Park with a bumper sleighful of presents, Santa merrily settles in his magical Christmas Cottage during December.

The cottage is jam-packed with presents and other festive treats ready for delivery on Christmas Eve. For a small additional charge, children have the opportunity to meet Santa and receive an early Christmas gift. During this time, the festive cheer will spread throughout the park. Visitors can jump aboard Thomas the Tank Engine to complete the Bauble Challenge. The elves will also be busy showing children a selection of seasonal activities in the Wacky Workshop.



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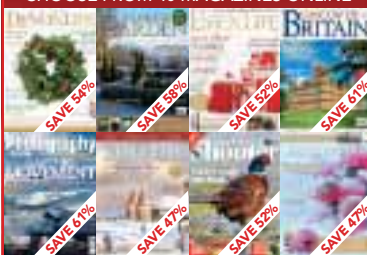
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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Meet the mammals It's a vole lot of fun

Mid Kent Downs Walk, Bicknor

Saturday, November 26, 10am-1pm
01303 815170
www.midkentdowns.org.uk

YOU can meet the animals of Gorham Wood, Bicknor, on an organised walk later this month. The event, set up by Gorham And Admiral Community Woodlands and the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, starts at St James's Church, Bicknor; it is free to attend. The walk is being led by mammal expert Jon Bramley, who will take people through the woods to see mice, voles and shrews. The walk will be two miles long at a very gentle pace and is suitable for all ages. This event is part of the Uncovering The Gems Of Gorham And Admiral Woods project, which aims to help local people explore the wildlife of their area.

Ghost tours at mighty castle History horror

Dover Castle

November 23, December 1, 2
0870 3331183
english-heritage.org.uk

A MYSTERIOUS woman in red, a tragic Napoleonic drummer boy and the eerie sounds of running boots are some of the unexplained apparitions and experiences of Dover Castle.

Visitors can learn about them in a series of after-dark ghost tours led by knowledgeable guides around extremely spooky areas that take on an eerie chill after dark, when the castle is empty.

Dover Castle's turbulent history stretches back 2,000 years to Roman times and the centuries have produced an abundance of scary sightings and ghostly goings-on, which will be recalled on these tours. Pre-booking is essential and tickets cost £30 per person; the tours are not suitable for children under 11.



Top Radio Four comedian live? Jeremy Hardy

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

Wednesday, November 23
01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

JEREMY Hardy is one of the UK's most respected stand-up comedians. An essential member of Radio Four's The Newsquiz team, Hardy is back on the road. Hardy's new live show could be called an extravaganza were it not for the fact that nothing happens.

He comes on, talks for a while and then goes off again. He doesn't walk about. In fact, 'show' is a bit of an overstatement, as is the word 'live'.

But he does say quite a lot, most of it coherent. Hardy became a stand-up comic in 1984 and his live work has included Just For Laughs Montreal Comedy Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where he won the prestigious Perrier Award, and the Radio Four mainstay show I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue.



Play to warm all our hearts Show of spirit

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Friday, December 2, 7.30pm
01892 678678

CRANFORD at Christmas is a new stage play inspired by Elizabeth Gaskell's Cranford stories, combining the excitement of the festive season with the tranquillity

of deep winter in the English countryside and is equally suitable for the pre-Christmas rush.

Chapterhouse Theatre Company celebrates winter 2011 with the most heart-warming production imaginable to melt the heart of even the sternest of Scrooges. Cranford's cosy hubbub of festivity is destroyed when disaster strikes and the community must unite to keep the spirit of Christmas alive. Tickets cost between £10 and £12 and are available from www.trinitytheatre.net.

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STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

A Christmas Carol 2011 Modern twist

Mount Ephraim, Faversham
Sunday, December 18, at 1pm,
4pm and 6pm
www.thepantaloons.co.uk

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED outdoor-theatre company The Pantaloons returns to the beautiful surroundings of Mount Ephraim with its hilarious adaptation of the Charles Dickens festive favourite A Christmas Carol. With a cast of just four actors, this production uses audience interaction, puppetry, slapstick, original music and carols. The Pantaloons formed in 2004 and their reach, popularity and reputation have grown each year. The company has tackled classics such as Romeo And Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming Of The Shrew, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing and The Canterbury Tales. Its 2010 tour of A Christmas Carol was a sell-out success and so the show is back by popular demand.



Ballet dancers are required Your big chance

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Monday, November 28
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
01322 220000

YOUNG dancers from Kent have the opportunity of a lifetime to audition for roles in the world premiere of a sensational new production of Swan Lake at The Orchard

Theatre in Dartford. The award-winning English Youth Ballet is holding an audition for male and female dancers aged between eight and 18 from 4.30pm on Monday, November 28. The team is looking for 100 young dancers to perform the corps de ballet and soloist roles in the production that will be presented at the Dartford venue in the spring. The audition is an experience in itself as all the dancers will take part in 90 minutes of ballet on the stage and their parents are invited.

Brigadoon The village on a misty stage

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tue to Sat, November 22-26
01892 530613

TWODS production company presents the magical musical Brigadoon for a wee stint at the Assembly Hall Theatre. Set in the highlands of Scotland, Brigadoon is a village

that appears out of the mist only once in every 100 years. Two strangers stumble upon the village and bring high drama, intrigue and, of course, romance to the inhabitants. You will enjoy the wonderful music of Lerner and Loewe, including old favourites such as Almost Like Being In Love, There But For You Go I, The Heather On The Hill and the beautiful haunting theme tune, Brigadoon. Tickets start from just £11; you can book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



Soul of Bollywood It's a culture mash

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Friday, November 25, 7.30pm
01474 337774
www.gravesham.gov.uk

THE chart-topping band Botown are bringing The Soul Of Bollywood tour to the Woodville Halls this month. Their music journeys from Memphis to Mumbai, fusing Bollywood glamour and Motown soul. The multicultural band have topped the UK Asian chart with a sound that reinvents Bollywood grooves by giving them a twist of soul. Botown's Soul Of Bollywood tour brought the house down in previous tours, including sell-out London shows at the Jazz Café, Rich Mix and artsdepot. The band turn culture clash into a culture mash that delights both fans of Bollywood and lovers of soul. Tickets are priced at £17.50.



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HOMES

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Caring and sharing on old hospital site

THE Old Hospital in Church Street, Maidstone, has just one apartment remaining in Home Group's collection of homes in the former Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital, situated centrally in the county town.

The shared-ownership property is available as a part-buy-part-rents scheme, but there is no rent to pay for the first 12 months and Home Group is also offering purchasers a six-month parking permit plus a variety of other deals.

Under Home Group's shared-ownership scheme, the remaining one-bedroom apartment at The Old Hospital costs just £50,000 for a 50 per cent share, based on a full market value of £100,000.

The building faces The Old Hospital's new garden square and the original Victorian buildings, which are stone-built in a picturesque Jacobean style.

Sophia Arain, of Home Group, said: "The development offers the perfect blend of style, convenience and period charm, and our shared-ownership scheme has made buying there genuinely affordable.

"The chance to live in a historic mar-

ket town within easy reach of London really does provide the best of both worlds, making the remaining apartment perfect both for commuters and anyone working locally."

The apartment has a fully-fitted kitchen complete with a hob, stainless-steel electric oven, extractor and splash-back. The bathroom is fitted with white sanitary ware, thermostatically-controlled shower, shower screen and vinyl flooring. The apartment also has carpet fitted in the lounge, hall and bedroom. Economical and energy-efficient features include low-energy downlighters and air-driven heat-exchange central heating via water radiators.

Security features include a mains-operated smoke-detector and an entry-phone system. There are television and FM radio outlet points in the reception room and bedroom and pre-fitted provision for Sky+ satellite television.

Each apartment achieves Level Three of the Code For Sustainable Homes, which rates a number of factors, including energy efficiency, CO2 emissions, recycling, environmental impact and waste disposal.



MIX AND MATCH: The Old Hospital development in Maidstone

MOVEPLANNER

In this last part of his series, **Martin Cunningham** MNAEA, commercial director of Archant's property portal, **homes24.co.uk**, introduces another useful new function that has been built into homes24, now powered by **Zoopla**

MOVEPLANNER is a free-to-use personal moving assistant. Programme in your details and target moving date, and it holds your hand each step of the way by sending email prompts of things to do along your journey when moving home.

MovePlanner operates around an intuitive calendar and will also offer up suppliers to assist you move, ranging from removal firms to broadband-suppliers. MovePlanner ensures that nothing is overlooked or forgotten and becomes a highly useful asset in helping reduce the stress around your move.

You can find MovePlanner at <http://bit.ly/moveplanner>.

Alternatively, scan the QR code at the top of the page.

*Until next time...
Martin*



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Why to Buy

Opportunity knocks for home-buyers

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE current property market is providing huge opportunities for buyers as developers and lenders seek to boost demand and stimulate activity.

Deals on offer include part-exchange, low deposits, attractive mortgage offers, assisted moving and fees packages.

According to the Building Societies Association, many people believe the current property market presents buying opportunities – both for short-term moves and long-term investment.

For those looking to move into a bigger home, falling house prices are not a problem.

Although they will get less for the home they are selling, they will save on a property they are buying, and proportionately this will be a bigger saving.

Part-exchange is available at many new developments throughout the country, but buyers will need to trade up from their existing property, and the value of their home should be in the region of 70 per cent of the property they intend to buy.

Some lenders are also extending the availabil-

ity of low-deposit loans which were previously only offered to existing customers.

With the latest Mortgage Monitor survey showing that just 1 per cent of total lending in October was to those with a deposit of 10 per cent or less, this couldn't have come at a better time for the market.

Nationwide is offering a three-year fixed-rate at 5.39 per cent and five-year fix at 5.69 per cent, both with a reduced fee of £499. There are also even cheaper options available.

Chelsea has a three-year fix at 4.89 per cent with £199 fee, while the Woolwich offers 4.99 per cent with no fee. Five-year fixes are on offer from HSBC at 4.89 per cent with no fee, and 5.49 per cent with £499 fee from Woolwich.

Andrew Hagger, from Moneynet.co.uk, said: "Buyers who can scrape together the 10 per cent deposit and have a clean credit record now have a wider choice of providers and mortgage options, in stark contrast to just a couple of years ago."

In all, the housing market across the county saw an increase in activity during October as sales levels stayed positive and demand edged up, says the latest Royal Institute Chartered Surveyors UK housing-market survey.

Last month, 6 per cent more chartered surveyors reported that newly-agreed sales rose rather than fell.

Although still at low levels, this rise represents a rebound in activity after September's dip.

Some surveyors attributed the increase to growing realism from sellers, who are now more willing to take offers to secure a sale.

Completed sales in the region remained steady, at an average of 14 per surveyor over the past three months. Respondents noted that if buyers were able to access finance, banks were taking a long time to agree lending terms, which was also slowing down the purchase process.

New-buyer enquiries, which are a good indicator of buyer demand, remained positive, with a net balance of +18 per cent – the highest level in the UK.

RICS South East spokesman Robin Goddard said: "It is encouraging that activity levels in the region appear to have edged upwards over the past month."

Andrew Miller, of Linay & Shipp estate agents, based in Orpington, said: "We are still agreeing a satisfactory number of sales despite the prevailing market conditions."

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WHY TO BUY

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Great offers to help you climb property ladder



CREST Nicholson is keeping people moving with a range of purchasing schemes designed to suit buyers on all rungs of the property ladder.

The developer is involved in a range of schemes across Kent and they are proving extremely popular.

Annette Cole, sales and marketing director for Crest Nicholson, said: "One of our most popular schemes is FirstBuy, which enables purchasers to own 100 per cent of their home for just 80 per cent of the price as Crest Nicholson and the Homes and Communities Agency offer a loan of up to 20 per cent of the full purchase price."

Moves to help with deposits and part-exchange schemes are also available.

Ms Cole said: "Another fantastic scheme to help first-time buyers on to the property ladder is our '5 per cent deposit paid' scheme.

"Running in conjunction with the 90 per cent mortgage by Santander, buyers need only raise 5 per cent deposit as Crest Nicholson will pay the remaining 5 per cent. This is a gift, not a loan, so buyers do not need to factor in repayment as part of their monthly outgoings.

"For those who already own a house but are struggling to sell on the open market, we can offer our part-exchange scheme whereby we buy the customer's house, leaving them free to buy a Crest Nicholson home.

"These are just a few of the ways in which we are helping buyers move up the property ladder.

"For more information, buyers can visit www.crestnicholson.com and discover how they can buy their ideal home with Crest Nicholson."



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*The Santander mortgage is available to first time buyers at 90%, on new build houses only. The Santander mortgage is currently available at a two year Tracker Rate of 5.79% and a Fixed Rate of 6.19% the tracker and fixed rate products are valid until 2nd May 2013. If a joint application, both applicants must be first time buyers. Information provided by Sacre Associates. For more information, please contact the Sales Advisor.

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Papermill Walk at Ingress Park near Bluewater | DA9 9EQ

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Buy-to-let offer is a guaranteed winner and has no strings

A BRILLIANT buy-to-let opportunity has been made available by the developer of Valley Park, the beautiful development of New England-style homes on the outskirts of Rye in East Sussex.

Prices start at just £249,950 and you are guaranteed to receive a no-strings-attached 7 per cent rental yield for two years; at the end of the period you can take advantage of a buy-back deal.

Once you've let the property – or the selling agent Reeds Rains can let it for you – the developer will make up the difference between the market yield and the guaranteed 7 per cent yield.

It will pay you monthly for 24 months as long as the property remains let – and that's not all. At the end of the two years the developer will buy back the property at the original purchase price. This will, of course, be subject to a condition survey and three months' notice.

A 2 per cent administration and legal fees charge will also apply. It may sound too good to be true, but there's no catch. You will start receiving the money at the end of the first month that the property is let.

And remember the property could even be

worth more in two years than the original purchase price. So with interest levels on savings and deposit accounts at record lows, it's an ideal way to consider making your hard-earned cash work for you.

Billed as more than just a place to live and overlooking the High Weald Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Valley Park is just half a mile from Rye station with its links to London St Pancras (journey time is about an hour) and the East Sussex coastal towns.

All Valley Park homes are built to an extremely high specification and the development is providing one of the first opportunities to buy such character homes built to the latest eco-standards in Rye for many years.

Once surrounded by sea, this fortified hill-top town played an important role in the defence of the south coast of England.

These days, the buy-to-let opportunity is a buy-back winner.

The show home open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm. At all other times, phone the Reeds Rains Rye office on 01797 225864 for more information or visit www.valleyparkrye.co.uk.



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'Something for everyone' at development on the downs

FOLLOWING a good response on launch weekend, Jones Homes Southern's new Westwood Grange development at Lenham could well become a sales success.

This development includes 19 three-, four- and five-bedroom houses and one- and two-bedroom apartments in the picturesque village of Lenham.

It attracted more than 30 visitors on launch day, with the first house being snapped up before the end of the week-end.

Sara Stanhope, sales and marketing director for Jones Homes Southern, said: "We received plenty of enquiries regarding Westwood Grange prior to the launch, so the response wasn't a surprise.

"With a full range of house types, there's something for everyone. Buying off-plan means purchasers are able to select their preferred plots."



The first new homes at Westwood Grange will be completed in spring 2012, and the group recommends potential buyers head to either Kingsborough Manor on the Isle of Sheppey or to Henwood Place in Ashford to take a look at show homes revealing the Jones Homes specification and attention to detail.

Nestling at the foot of the

North Downs, midway between Maidstone and Ashford, Lenham is home to an excellent village primary school, a good selection of village shops and, on the second Sunday of each month, a farmers' market.

Lenham train station is on the main Maidstone East to London Victoria line, with a journey time to the capital of

some 90 minutes, while it takes just 15 minutes to Maidstone or Ashford International.

For more information on the first release of four- and five-bedroom homes priced from £380,000 to £535,000, phone the Jones Homes sales team on 01622 850746 from Thursday to Monday, 10am-5.30pm, or visit www.jones-homes.co.uk.

Builder hits heights (again) with awards

MULTI-award-winning house-builder Higgins Homes has cleaned up at the UK Property Awards.

The group won four gongs, including the enviable Best Apartment UK award for the second consecutive year.

Higgins was also further highly commended for The Old Hospital site in Maidstone as part of the Best Apartment Kent category.

The property awards ceremony was held at the Lancaster Hotel, London, and recognised the best residential and commercial property industries as well as the UK's highest-achieving property companies.

The judging panel of property experts from around the globe included acclaimed journalists Nigel Lewis and Graham Norwood and the chief executive of the National Federation Of Property

Professionals, Peter Bolton King.

Higgins Homes scooped awards for Best Apartment Hertfordshire, Best Apartment London and Best Apartment UK for its Aqua Vista property in Bow.

Sales director Jeremy Marcus said: "We are extremely proud of our success at the UK Property Awards this year, particularly winning Best Apartment UK for the second consecutive year.

"It hasn't been easy, but the time, dedication and commitment to quality have paid off."

The Best Apartment UK award win will now see Higgins Homes competing for the ultimate title of Best Apartment International for the second time against winners from other regions around the world.

Details of the Higgins Homes portfolio are at www.higginshomes.co.uk.



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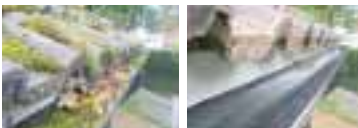
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ROAD-SAFETY charity the Institute of Advanced Motoring has put together a series of motoring tips from expert driver Peter Rodger, who is focusing his attention on driving in winter.

IAM chief examiner Mr Rodger said: "If the weather is really bad, think about whether you really need to make the journey before travelling. If so, ensure you take the time to prepare your car for your trip."

Mr Rodger offers tips to avoid car problems:

■ Don't switch on the engine until you are ready to go; a modern car does not need to warm the

engine up. Do put the engine on if you need to run the heater or demister before you move.

■ Clean your windows inside and out – a dirty screen will cause the windows to mist up much quicker.

■ Clean off any snow from the car's roof and bonnet as well as windows.

■ When you get in the car, make sure all the extra electrical things are turned off before you try starting it (such as lights and heater).

■ When you're ready to go, switch on the engine and heater (air-conditioning, too, if you have it

fitted – it keeps the screen dry) so that the windows don't steam up.

■ Use the 'ice' setting if your car has one.

Mr Rodger said: "Taking the time to prepare your car for the winter weather conditions is important so that it copes well throughout your journey. Now is the time to check the battery and ensure that your screenwash is the antifreeze version."

To help drivers stay safe this winter, the IAM has launched a website, drivingadvice.org.uk, with traffic updates, weather forecasts



and tips on how to drive safely in winter. Tips cover rain, snow, ice, fog and wind – everything you can expect from a typically unpredictable British winter.

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MAKING WAVES: The new Astra GTC reflects the brand's image and is sure to be a top car for driving enthusiasts

Astra coupé set to fire up family hatch sector

By Sam Davison

editorial@archant.co.uk

IN showrooms this month is a highly-affordable halo car from Vauxhall – the Astra GTC.

Sure, the scorching VXR flagship won't be quite so affordable when it comes out early next year, but even the more everyday versions of this new three-door version of the Astra look sharp – and it's available now from £18,495.

Not that we expected any different: the previous-generation Astra was one of the pioneers of the now-common practice of 'going coupé' with three-door versions of popular family hatchbacks – what used to be the poor relation of the line-up.

And the current Astra five-door – which missed out so narrowly on following the bigger Vauxhall Insignia in taking the coveted European Car Of The Year – had already shown what a good job Vauxhall/Opel British design chief Mark Adams and his team were doing for the brand.

The GTC follow-up really does have a coupé's on-road stance, with its cleverly-pinned rear-side window disguising what is still a respectably-high rear roofline, for practical headroom and loadspace.

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It will also reflect the brand's new image as one of the paragons for interior fit and finish.

And, as we already know from the five-door Astra's chassis, it will surely be a top-drawer driver's car. Vauxhall has also announced what we all expected: that launch models will be followed next year by a VXR boasting a 280bhp 2.0-litre turbocharged engine – it will be the fastest production Astra ever.

Worth noting here is that the VXR will have a limited slip differential to tame the awesome power that will feed through the front driving wheels – the car it replaces tended to be unruly when full power was applied. For now, though, the GTC arrives in two trims, Sport and – the company-car-driver's favourite – SRI.

The £18,495 entry model is the 1.4 Turbo 120PS Sport with standard kit including six airbags, daytime running lights, 18-inch seven-spoke alloys, air-con, premium sound system including digital radio and USB/iPod connection and control, electric front windows, cruise control, remote central locking and fully-adjustable steering wheel with audio controls. The SRI range starts at £19,945.

Standard across the models is exemplary safety levels – the GTC has just achieved a maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP safety test.

Step up Up! VW's GTI vision return to hot hatch spirit

VOLKSWAGEN has whetted the appetites of would-be buyers of its new Up! baby car by unveiling a possible GTI spin-off.

With the classic Golf GTI getting bulkier – but no less entertaining – with each new generation, a pocket-rocket version of the tiny Up! might be just the thing to recapture the zeitgeist of the original hot hatch.

Despite its size, the GTI/Up! concept ticks all the boxes visually, with a gaping honeycomb grille larger than the standard Up!, chromed tailpipes, deep sills, arch-filling 17-inch alloys and a rear-roof spoiler.

It also neatly counters any accusations that the new city runabout will be a car for the girls rather than boys.

Order books are now open for the Up! (from at £7,995) which arrives early in 2012, and offers awesome cabin space efficiency within relatively compact on-road dimensions.

It will launch as a three-door with two 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine options including an eco-warrior BlueMotion version. A five-door is due in late 2012.

Playing on the Up! theme, it will be offered in Take Up!, Move Up! and High Up! trim, plus black-and-white special editions, but Take Up! will be fairly basic, so Move Up! (£8,970) looks the best option, bringing remote central locking, air-con, electric front windows, a height-adjustable driver's seat, variable-height load floor and 60:40 split/fold rear seats. A further £360 brings the Move Up! BlueMotion within reach with road-tax-beating emissions and near 70mpg average.

• VW dealers have also opened order books for the latest – and most stylish – incarnation of the Beetle (from £16,490). At launch early in 2012, it will be available with two petrol engines: turbocharged 1.2-litre or 1.4-litre.



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Model shown is New Cruze 2.0 VCDI LTZ Hatchback

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Vehicles shown are Spark 1.2 LT, New Cruze 2.0 VCDI LTZ Hatchback and Captiva 2.2 VCDI LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £375 for Spark and £410 for Cruze and Captiva. Offer prices available on vehicles registered between 10th November 2011 and 30th November 2011, whilst stocks last. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet range: Urban: 28.2 (10.0) - 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban: 44.1 (6.4) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined: 36.6 (7.7) - 55.4 (5.1). CO₂ emissions 203 - 119g/km.

MOTORING

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Captivating Chevy hits the value and versatility spot

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SOME might say Chevrolet's Captiva embodies everything expected of the American brand.

After all, it looks a bit brash, but you get lots of bangs for your bucks from this versatile SUV-cum-people-carrier – including the option to have seven seats. The car is even on offer until the end of this month.

Captiva prices normally start at £21,995 for the front-wheel-drive-only five-seater entry model, but you can get a more upmarket full 4x4 2.2 VCDi LT seven-seater for £21,695 – a six-grand saving.

But the Captiva is not a true Yank; it's built in Korea and none the worse for it, as we know from the quality and reliability of cars made there.

It's worth pointing out, too, that it was not derived from any of the ageing models that Chevy parent General Motors (GM) inherited when it took over the old Daewoo car brand.

So the Captiva was launched in 2007 as a fresh new face in the range and impressed immediately with its space, five or seven seats and pricing. It now comes with a five-year/100,000-mile warranty, too.

When fitted with 4x4, the Captiva also showed it could deliver respectable performance on challenging terrain – never intended to be a true off-roader, it copes with more than most owners will ever ask of it.

The car had a facelift earlier this year that is more than the obvious adoption of Chevrolet's big two-part grille. The wheel-arches are also more butch than before.

More noticeable behind the wheel, though, is an all-new powertrain line-up and deletion of a lack-lustre petrol option that got people looking at the Captiva's lead-in price but no further than the performance and economy figures.

CHEVROLET CAPTIVA 2.2 VCDi LTZ: PRICE £32,845

FACT FILE



Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★

Road tax: £260/year (E560 year one)

Best rival: Hyundai Santa Fe

Kent dealers

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BANGS FOR YOUR BUCKS:

Chevrolet's versatile Captiva delivers on many all fronts; a good SUV-cum-people-carrier with excellent off-road capabilities

The streamlined range concentrates on a new 2.2-litre diesel available with 161 and 182bhp, offering better performance and economy than the 148bhp 2.0-litre diesel unit they replaced and decent emissions and tax ratings in this class – though road tax in year one is steep.

Both versions deliver 60mph in under 10 seconds – not bad for a car of this bulk – and come with six-speed gearboxes, with an auto available on the bigger output unit tested here.

To cut your costs, you can still have front-wheel drive and five seats, but the full set – 4x4 and seven seats – is the best deal by far, making the Captiva as good a people-carrier as it is SUV.

Generous equipment, even on the lesser models, also drives home the message that this is a bargain compared with far more expensive rivals.

The Chevrolet badge also has more mythology about it than most mainstream ones, thanks to

namechecks in so much American music and films. Nostalgic Americana won't help you if the car is hard to live with, though, but it's as relaxed as a long-distance cruise on a US highway.

The new diesel is far smoother than the old unit and offers decent pulling power from low down. Our flagship model felt like a car costing at least half as much again as its £31,845, with its leather seats, premium electrics and smart new durable facia that includes all the latest hook-ups: aux/USB ports and Bluetooth.

The cabin is also notable for its useful stowage spaces and big boot – if you have to carry seven, there is no shortage of space for their stuff.

On-road, the car feels very well planted for its size and height, though, with the car's composure on the bends improved by chassis tweaks and a new and sharper steering set-up, but it will never be that rare beast – a sporting SUV.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Wraps off next Peugeot 208

PEUGEOT launches its all-new 208 supermini next spring, following in the tracks of those big-selling icons, the 205, 206 and 207.

The French marque says the newcomer will be 110kg lighter on average against the 207 and more compact yet offer more space inside for both passengers and luggage. It will be available with three or five doors.



Two-tone look for open-top

VOLVO has revamped its stylish folding hard-top coupe convertible, the C70.

New for the 2012 model is a two-tone colour scheme – selected colours combined with a silver roof. The car also has new LED day-running lights incorporated into the front bumper, while an optional chrome detailing strip is available for the rear bumper.



Mazda deals with 6 appeal

MAZDA has launched a 'Pay no VAT' offer on selected Mazda6 diesels – the family hatchback and estate cars now sell from £16,695 and buyers could save up to £4,000.

The tempting deal is available until March 31 next year and can be enhanced by 0 per cent APR finance over four years with only a 30 per cent deposit required.

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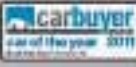
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[†]Models shown: i10 Classic 1.2 at £6,995 OTR in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost (includes £1,350 customer saving and subject to availability, please contact Grays Hyundai for more information). i20 Classic 1.2 3dr at £8,295 OTR (includes £1,600 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. i30 Classic 1.4 at £10,995 OTR (includes £2,785 customer saving) in Crystal White solid paint at no extra cost. Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st October and 31st December 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5YearWarranty or ask your local dealer.
Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.4 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 231 - 98 g/km.

MOTORING

Visit carsforkent.co.uk

And then there were five – joined by new Mini Coupé

MANY observers thought the Mini's creator Sir Alec Issigonis embellished his genius by evolving so many spin-offs from the car.

The roster of familiar derivatives included the jeep-like Mini Moke – famous in the cult 60s TV series *The Prisoner* – the Mini pick-up, the Minivan, Countryman estate and upmarket booted Riley Elf/Wolseley Hornet.

None could have foreseen, though, that the modern-day Mini, reborn under BMW, would go on to spawn so many versions, too: we've had a convertible, Clubman estate, Countryman mini-SUV and now there is the newly-launched two-seat Coupé (from £16,640-£23,795).

Along with the original hatchback, that makes five distinct versions, but the new Coupé has a tougher mission: to build upon and maximise the Mini driving experience.

Brand engineers have concentrated on delivering the highest level of agility via a special choice of engines, bespoke chassis set-up and careful weight distribution and aerodynamics.

Four models are offered, all equipped with digital radio, air-con,



park distance control, alloys, three-spoke sports-leather steering wheel and sport stripes on the body.

As ever with the brand, there's a near-bewildering range of accessories and personalisation options, plus the popular Mini tlc servicing package – five years/50,000 miles for £249.

The brand is also quick to point out that the Coupé is expected to retain its value strongly, as do other Mini models, which gives it a more favourable performance here than other rival sportsters of different shapes and sizes.

However, that does touch on the car's most controversial aspect – it is

not the most harmonious design.

One feels that looks have been sacrificed on the altar of performance and handling; for the committed petrolhead that won't matter, but one wonders if the style-conscious will adopt it in quite the way they have the other Minis. It could make the Coupé a 'Marmite Motor' – one you either love or hate.

Then again, many buyers won't mind when one of its main attractions is its straight-line speed.

The flagship John Cooper Works Coupé is the fastest-ever volume production Mini with a 0-62mph sprint time of 6.4 seconds and top speed of 149mph.



Eco star adds to Citroën line-up

CITROËN has announced its most CO₂-efficient conventionally-powered model to date – the new C3 e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+.

With road tax-exempt emissions of just 87g/km and a potential average of more than 80mpg, this new version of the French marque's big-selling C3 supermini is now Citroën's most fuel and CO₂-efficient diesel-powered car, ranking it among the best in class.

First displayed at the 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the highly specified e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+ can be ordered from £15,290, complete with the C3's renowned panoramic Zenith windscreens.

The new model is powered by a 68bhp diesel using Citroën's innovative 'Stop & Start' technology, which automatically cuts the engine when stopped and then fires it up when the

driver moves to take off again – ideal for traffic jams or slow-moving town traffic conditions.

Jules Tilstone, Citroën UK's marketing director, said: "Citroën is committed to driving down the cost of motoring, and this new model is a perfect example of that.

"With impressive fuel economy, low CO₂ emissions, a benefit-in-kind (tax) rate at just 13 per cent, free VED (road tax) and the benefit of no London congestion charge, this stylish model is a financially and environmentally attractive addition to the Citroën range.

"Underlining the brand's firm environmental commitment, a full 50 per cent of Citroën cars sold this year emit under 130g/km of CO₂ and there has been a five-gram decrease in average CO₂ emissions for the European range as a whole."

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe! Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Fiat Bravo MyLife 1.6 16v MultiJet 105, Urban 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 76.3 (3.7), Combined 64.2 (4.4), CO₂ emissions 115 g/km. Price relates to illustrated models of Bravo 1.6 16v MultiJet 105 MyLife. Terms and conditions apply. Retail customers only. While stocks last. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. October to December 2011 offer. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on Volume-weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, year 2010.

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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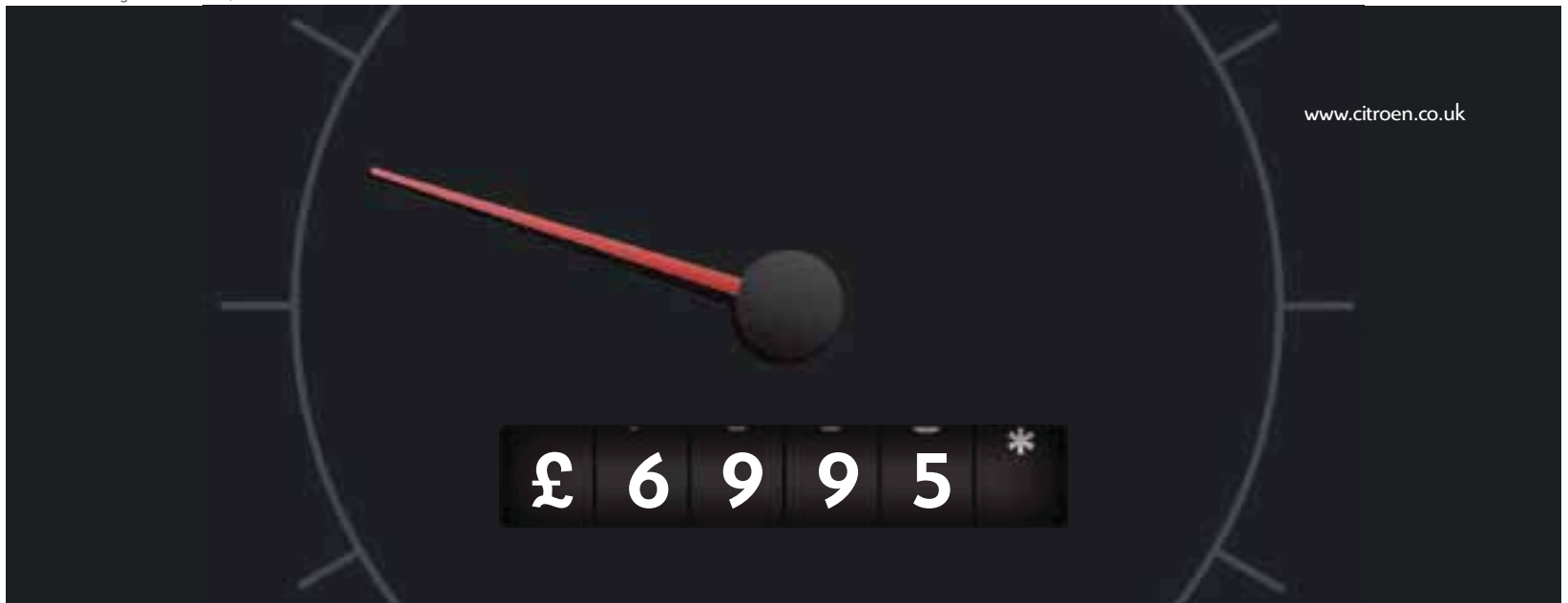
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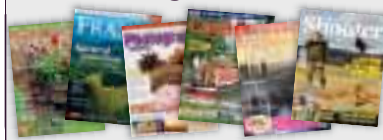
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CRICKET

Grounds for optimism as revamped St Lawrence helps Kent's figures

By David Pritchard

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KENT chiefs are encouraged by their latest set of commercial results but remain cautious ahead of what is expected to be a challenging year in 2012.

Members were given a flavour of the figures, which cover the 12 months to the end of October, at a meeting on Monday, although the final details will not be known until they are audited.

This summer was the first opportunity to make the most of the redeveloped facilities at the St Lawrence Ground, which appear to have made an impact.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, was careful to guard against getting carried away, but is pleased to be making progress.

He said: "The broad theme was things have been very encouraging. We've made considerable progress, particularly in some areas.

"Commercial support has gone up significantly, about 200 per cent - that's a good reflection of the efforts the commercial team have put in but also a great indicator of the response we've had when we've spoken to organisations.

"The improved conferencing and hospitality spaces we've got are now very attractive. The Les Ames Stand has gone from being an embarrassment really to being somewhere corporate guests are very keen to show off.

"To get growth in the commercial sector in a recession is very good news and something we should be proud of and has only come about through some very hard work."

A push is expected shortly to capitalise on the new facilities at the club's Canterbury base



Picture: ADY KERRY

UPBEAT: The improved facilities at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury contributed to growth in Kent's commercial activities this summer

during the winter, marketing it as a conference venue.

On the cricket side, membership has fallen slightly in the last 12 months, although a drop of about five per cent is not considered a cause for alarm given the general economic climate. A key target for next season will be on appealing to the supporters who only watched one day of cricket this summer - a group which makes up 70 per cent of gate receipts.

Although the prevailing mood is more upbeat than in previous years, when results have been bleak, there is an acknowledgement 2012 is likely to be difficult.

In addition to the gloom cast over the entire

economy, county cricket faces two specific challenges. A change to the lucrative Twenty20 competition will see counties play three fewer home games, while the London Olympics is expected to impact on gates in July and August.

Clifford said: "I hope the numbers will improve next year but I genuinely think it's going to be a tough year with the Olympics and the continuing recession.

"In a way our strategy is batten down the hatches and do what we can to improve the bottom line position but we have to accept we're trying to turn round a fairly significant and sizeable trading deficit built up over many, many years."

HOTEL PARTNER

A DECISION is expected shortly on which developer has won the contract to build a hotel as part of the St Lawrence Ground redevelopment.

The construction of a 130-bed hotel is the last remaining large scale project yet to begin as part of the £8.2 million overhaul at the Canterbury headquarters.

Progress has been slowed by the recession, but conditions have improved for talks to take place with several potential developers.

Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford said: "They represent a number of strong international brands and I think now we're at the point of making a selection to move forward with one of them. All being well we would get to a point where we agreed contracts in the New Year.

"What we would try and do is only impact on one season. If it's 12 months, fine, if it's more then we would schedule it so it didn't disrupt two seasons because I think what we experienced last time was fairly painful and we wouldn't want to do that too many times."

SPORT MAKERS

Campaign to encourage volunteers set to begin

THE first Kent workshops in a national programme set up to get people involved in organising sporting events will be held next week.

Sport Makers was launched by five-time Olympic champion Sir Steve Redgrave last month and is aiming to get 40,000 people nationwide to sign up to the programme by next summer to coincide with London 2012.

The target in Kent is to get just over 1,250 to sign up and spend 10 hours helping to organise sporting events, either through assisting existing clubs or informally by getting friends together.

The process begins by attending a workshop, which explains the programme and provides the volunteers with free training kit.

The first sessions in Kent



take place next week. It begins at Canterbury Christ Church University on Tuesday, November 22, before a session at the Canterbury campus of the University of Kent next Sunday, November 27.

Other sessions are planned across the county over the next nine months, with

Sittingbourne Community College set to host the first event in January.

Stuart Butler (pictured), who is heading up Sport Makers in Kent, said: "The ultimate aim is to retain a good proportion beyond

the 10 hours who will stay in sport. Then we can channel them along the different routes into the areas they are particularly interested in."

It is not too late to sign for the sessions in Canterbury.

Log on to www.sportmakers.co.uk to register.

MOTORSPORT

Picture: MARUSSIA MANOR RACING



CHANCE: Adrian Quaife-Hobbs drives for Virgin's GP3 sister team

F1 tests Quaife-Hobbs

ADRIAN Quaife-Hobbs got his first taste of a Formula One car on a full circuit this week as part of the young driver test in Abu Dhabi.

The 20-year-old completed 32 laps of the Yas Marina circuit in the Virgin-Cosworth, where Lewis Hamilton won Sunday's Grand Prix. Unofficial timing clocked his fastest lap as 1 minute 47.292 seconds, the slowest of the 12 drivers in Tuesday's morning session.

He said: "It's been a great experience and I've learned a lot. I ran two sets of new tyres and just began chipping away as I learned more about the car and how it reacts. Overall I'm pleased with the day and it's been a huge experience for me."

Bromley's Gary Paffett showed the benefit of his six years as McLaren's test driver, finishing third fastest on Wednesday.

ICE HOCKEY

Dynamos coach admits Fowler return is big risk

JUST months after sacking Callum Fowler for an attitude problem Invicta Dynamos head coach Kevin Parrish has re-signed the forward.

The 20-year-old was dismissed before the play-offs last season after clashes with team-mates and staff.

A return will raise plenty of eyebrows at the Silver Blades Ice Rink, not least among the playing squad, but Parrish believes the gamble is worth it for a player who scored 76 points in 34 games last season.

He said: "Callum said last year he couldn't give a monkey's and that's why his attitude stank."

"I have a lot to lose bringing him back. If it backfires it would put a lot of pressure on me. He's got a lot to prove to the dressing room as well because he upset a few guys last year, but if his attitude is better it would be some signing for us."

Fowler, who is on a month



Picture: DAVID TREVALION

COMEBACK: Callum Fowler

to month contract, trained with the Mos squad on Tuesday and is due to make his playing return this weekend, when the team visit Milton Keynes Thunder on Saturday and Streatham Redskins a day later.

The former Great Britain under-18 international helps fill the void left by Robbie Brown this month, although Parrish remains on the hunt for one more forward.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS V CHICHESTER CITY:
Culverden Stadium, kick-off 3pm on Saturday

Buoyant Wells wary of taking struggling Vase visitors lightly

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

LEAGUE priorities are put to one side for Tunbridge Wells this weekend as Martin Larkin's side aim to book their place in the FA Vase third round.

Chichester City stand in the way of a place in the last 64 for the second successive season.

On paper, Saturday's visitors to Culverden arrive as outsiders following a wretched run of just two wins from their last 13 games in all competitions.

Only goal difference keeps City off the bottom of the Sussex County League Division One table, but Larkin, the Wells boss, is wary of being lulled into a false sense of security.

He said: "The opportunity is there to get into the third round, which would set us up to stay in the Vase into the New Year.

"We're aware Chichester are a big club in their league and have had some very good results in the Vase this season. We don't read much into their league position, but it's a long journey for them and I'm glad we're at home.

"These are definitely the games we want to be involved in."

Wells' optimism could hardly be higher, following a 3-1 win at Erith Town last weekend which Larkin felt was the side's best display of the season.

Jon Pilbeam scored on his return on loan from Chatham Town, while Andy McMath hit a brace to make sure of the points. With sides around

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



TUNBRIDGE WELLS FA VASE CAMPAIGN

First qualifying round

Erith & Belvedere 3-2 (a)

Scorers: Rich, Cornell (2)

Second qualifying

Mile Oak 5-1 (h)

Scorers: Irvine, Harris (2), Spackman, Biddlecombe

First round

Seaford Town 2-1 (a)

Scorers: Crush, Boyle

Second round

Chichester City ?-? (h)

BRACE: Andy McMath (in red) scored twice for Tunbridge Wells in last weekend's win at Erith Town

them dropping points, the victory lifted the Wells back into the Kent League's top three.

Larkin said: "It was just a very good performance. As a squad we understand it won't be until January that we get everyone fully fit but when we do it's going to be one hell of a squad. Our season could have unravelled with the injuries we've had, but all credit to the lads who have

stepped up."

Jack Harris and Carl Cornell are both nearing a return to training, while Karl Knight became the third Maidstone United player to join the squad on a temporary basis last weekend.

Going the other way, Alex Rich has left the club after Larkin was unable to guarantee him regular football.

MOTORSPORT



BRIGHT LIGHTS: Brands hosts Le Mans-style night racing on Saturday

Brands Hatch season ends with Britcar Championship

THE motorsport season at Brands Hatch comes to an end this weekend with the finale of the Britcar Championship.

The main event is the British Endurance Championship, which begins in the fading light and is a rare chance to see racing on the circuit in the darkness.

Saturday's 'Into the night' race has been extended from two to three hours for the occasion. The Dodge Viper of Craig Wilkins and Aaron Scott is expected to challenge at the front of the pack, along

with the Top Cats Racing Marcos in a field which also includes a host of Porsches and Ferraris.

Alongside the race there is also the climax to the Production GTN Championship, held over two hours.

The title has gone down to the wire, with Seat drivers Alex Os-bourn and James May starting with a lead of just three points over Tim Saunders, in a Honda Civic Type-R, whilst Lotus Elise pair Simon Phillips and Pete Storey are also in contention.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS V EAST GRINSTEAD:

St Mark's Recreation Ground, 2,30pm kick-off Saturday

League leaders next up for struggling Tunbridge Wells

FOLLOWING on from an uninspiring display in defeat last weekend Tunbridge Wells face the daunting task of attempting to end East Grinstead's perfect start to the season on Saturday.

The visitors arrive nine points clear at the top of London 2 South East after a 100 per cent start to the season. The form book would suggest a ninth successive victory for East Grinstead this weekend, with Tunbridge Wells slipping to second bottom following a 19-3 defeat to fellow strugglers Deal & Betteshanger last Saturday.

Roger Clarke, club chairman, was disappointed with the display at Deal but believes there is nothing to fear this weekend.

He said: "If you're playing against a side below you in the table you expect a better performance. There's work to do.

"I don't think we worry too much about people's league positions. Though we're disappointed with the Deal game no one has stuffed us this season and we've had some close games at home. We start again on Saturday."

Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT



RESTED: Skipper Iain Bartley

The side will have a specialist second row, which was missing against Deal, with James Webb and Rob Harrison available.

Captain Iain Bartley is in need of a rest and will miss the game, but Ollie Lewis-Donaldson returns to fly-half.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Administrators take note...

“ONCE, while attending a Kent League match, I witnessed a genuinely chilling encounter between a member of the league committee and a club official.

It was a bit like the climactic scene in the film 8 Mile, only instead of trying to blow each other off stage with the power of rap, both men were trying to score a technical knock-out using their knowledge of the Kent County FA handbook.

"I refer you to section 20, governing the behaviour of officials at matches..." SMACK!

"Then I must refer you to sub-section 24.1 of the Respect Agenda..." POW!

Some football administrators get an almost sensual power kick out of enforcing even the most absurd regulation.

Thus last week's poppy fiasco, when FIFA initially ordered the match referee to abandon England's friendly with Spain if the home side attempted to wear poppies on their shirts.

Their justification for this, and the feeble compromise that followed, was that allowing England to wear poppies might open the floodgates for politically provocative shirt designs, eg. the Japanese might produce a shirt marking the invasion of Manchuria, or Turkey donning a third kit with an interwoven crest of Gallipoli.

But it shouldn't be beyond the wit of man to judge each situation on its merits and in the unlikely event anyone from FIFA is reading this article, this is how it works.

When presented with a request from a nation that wishes to pay a dignified, unprovocative tribute to its departed servicemen, you say "yes." And if, for example, a team wants to turn up for a play-off match in Tel Aviv wearing a kit with a black swastika in the middle, you say "no."

Instead, administrators too often fall into the simple-minded trap of using a hypothetical threat to justify an extreme course of action.

Around five years ago a group of junior clubs in Kent decided to prevent a newly-formed team from joining their local league, claiming if this new club prospered, it might threaten their existence.

The new club had only formed because the players weren't getting a game with the rival clubs because they weren't considered good enough, at the age of nine.

Thus a group of grown men voted to prevent children from playing football and if you think that could only happen at local level, spare a thought for Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey, who have been warned if they play for Great Britain at the Olympics they might "threaten the independence of the Welsh FA within FIFA".

Maybe they, like the nationalist MSP who said a British team might damage the Scottish economy, know something we don't. Or maybe it's just territorial posturing. Either way, God forbid a Welshman should get the chance to play in a major tournament.

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